

Greece denies 'spirit of Davos' damaged

OSLO (R) — Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu denied Wednesday that a wrangle with Turkey over divided Cyprus had damaged a recent rapprochement between the two countries after three decades of enmity. Papandreu told a news conference, which came to Norway, that a planned trip to Athens by Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal would go ahead in June, but said the two states deserved in a state of "no war," rather than peace. Turkey's Ozal had refused to attend a meeting of the European Community's association council in Luxembourg after Greece persuaded its community partners to include a reference in Cyprus in the opening address. "What is there in this that has damaged the spirit of Davos?" Papandreu asked, referring to his January meeting with Ozal in the Swiss resort, hailed as heralding better relations. Papandreu sought to calm fears expressed by political commentators in both countries this week that the most recent skirmishes over the island, which includes the breakaway Turkish republic of north Cyprus, could spoil the atmosphere.

Volume 13 Number 3768

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY APRIL 28-29, 1988, RAMADAN 12-13, 1408

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جورдан تايمز يومي سياسى مختصر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى.

King congratulates Iraqi president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable of congratulations to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on the occasion of the president's birthday. The King renewed Jordan's firm support for Iraq in its defense of Arab territories and dignity. The King also wished the Iraqi president continuing good health and happiness and the Iraqi people further progress and victory.

King sends good wishes to Hirohito

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable of congratulations to Emperor Hirohito of Japan on the occasion of the emperor's birthday. The King wished Emperor Hirohito continuing good health and happiness and the Japanese people further progress and prosperity. The King also voiced Jordan's desire to further bolster relations and cooperation with Japan. The King expressed appreciation for the warm hospitality extended to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan during his recent visit to Japan.

Dakhqan visits Jordan Valley

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Water and Irrigation Ahmad Dakhqan, accompanied by Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Secretary General Mohammad Buni Hanu, Wednesday inspected agricultural projects in Wadi Araha and the southern Jordan Valley. The minister discussed with officials in charge of the project's programmes related to agricultural research and studies about groundwater resources in the valley.

Miami mayor caught in Gaza protests

MIAMI BEACH (AP) — Miami Beach Mayor Alex Daoud was stoned by Palestinian protesters while touring the Gaza Strip with an Israeli army patrol, this city's spokeswoman said Tuesday. Daoud was not hurt in the incident Monday and was due to arrive in Miami Wednesday from his week-long trip to Israel, and to occupied territories, said Amanda Moss. "The indication is he was hit, but not seriously," she said. The mayor had requested the Gaza tour, she added. Miami Beach publicist Gerald Schwartz said Daoud was wearing clothes similar to the Israeli army uniform, which she said was normal practice for such tours. The mayor was with a group of three armored cars, Schwartz said. Daoud, who is Lebanese by descent and a Roman Catholic, was first elected mayor of this heavily Jewish community in 1985, and was reelected last year.

Iran claims 15 U.S. marines wounded

BAHRAIN (AP) — Iran claimed Wednesday that 15 U.S. marines were wounded in the April 18 skirmishes between U.S. and Iranian forces and were subsequently flown to West Germany for treatment. Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said the wounded men had been "previously confined" at a hospital in Bahrain, adding that "the U.S. has not yet disclosed its casualty figures" in the April 18 fighting. The Pentagon said earlier that there were no American casualties in the day-long skirmishes that began with two attacks by U.S. warships on Iranian oil platforms. Related stories on page 5.

Ethiopia denies British minister not allowed to visit

ADDIS ABABA (AP) — The chief government relief official has denied Ethiopia refused permission for Britain's minister for overseas development to visit the country. Berhanu Jember, head of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, also accused Christopher Patten of misrepresenting the situation in northern Ethiopia, where civil war is jeopardising efforts to feed 3.2 million drought victims.

Teenage girl shot dead in W. Bank Palestinian traders defy Israeli orders

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A 15-year-old Palestinian girl was shot dead when anti-Israeli protests erupted in an occupied West Bank village, and Palestinian merchants vowed to continue their defiance of Israeli orders.

Reports said the Palestinian uprising leader, Arjee Ismail Habib, was shot in the head Tuesday night in Kifl Al Dil. Arabs said villagers hurled stones at Israeli troops who had entered the village near Nablus.

Habib, the first Palestinian killed since Saturday, died in hospital several hours after being shot, sources quoted by Reuter said.

In Arab Jerusalem, most stores remained closed after merchants voted Tuesday night to extend a strike through Thursday to protest the arrest of 14 shopkeepers who violated police orders.

The arrested merchants had opened only in the afternoon —

following the calls of uprising leaders and ignore police.

"We will not listen to police orders even if they close every single store in Jerusalem," he said.

The shooting of the teen-age girl Wednesday brought to 174 the number of Palestinians killed in the nearly five-month-old uprising.

Civil disobedience

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is involved in planning a civil disobedience campaign in the occupied territories. Libya's official news agency JANA reported Wednesday.

The seven other merchants also agreed to pay bail and were expected to be released later, the spokesman said.

The police orders to shopkeepers are aimed at breaking the hold of the uprising, but Musa Hallak, an Arab Jerusalem merchant, said the shopkeepers decided Tuesday night to continue

Commandos mount new raid across Lebanon border

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A Palestinian suicide commando squad crossed into Israel early Wednesday in the second such operation in 24 hours and attacked Israeli troops, killing or wounding several before being shot dead, according to reports from Israel and a statement issued in Beirut.

A faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Lebanese Communist Party claimed joint responsibility for the second infiltration into northern Israel in two days.

The claim in a joint communiqué issued in Beirut by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, one of eight factions making up the PLO, and the Lebanese Communist Party, headed by George Hawi.

Israel Radio said commandos from Lebanon clashed with soldiers inside Israel after the infiltration threw a hand grenade at an Israeli truck, wounding the driver. Troops killed both commandos, it said.

The Beirut communiqué said "Martyr Ghassan Kanafani's Squad" of the PFLP and the Communist Party's "Martyr Lula Abboud's Squad" infiltrated from South Lebanon into northern Israel and attacked Israeli troops with grenades and

machine gun fire.

The communiqué, which did not identify the attackers or reveal the number of commandos involved in the infiltration, said several Israeli troops were killed or wounded.

The commandos entered Israel in the same area as Tuesday's clash 200 metres inside the border, in which two Israeli soldiers and three Palestinian fighters were killed, according to the Israeli army.

An Israeli military truck driver encountered the commandos about three kilometres from the border at "Tank Junction," where a ruin of a Soviet tank used by the Syrians in the 1967 Middle East war stands as a memorial, military sources told the AP.

The commandos attacked the truck and the driver was wounded in the attack, according to the Israeli version of the incident.

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Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin told a parliamentary committee the army has spent \$25.7 million to quell the uprising and said he needed an additional \$160 million to cover the costs.

KUWAIT (Agencies) — A time-bomb ripped through the downtown office of Saudi Arabia's national airline Wednesday, injuring a guard and seriously damaging the premises, the interior ministry said.

The blast at the airline, Saudia, occurred less than a day after Saudi Arabia broke diplomatic relations with Iran. Kuwait often has blamed bomb attacks on Iran-backed saboteurs.

Police said the bomb appeared to have been placed on the side-

walk. It went off at 4:20 p.m. (1320 GMT), but offices and streets were empty due to the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Saudi Arabia said it had cut diplomatic ties with Iran because of Tehran's hostile stands towards Riyadh and attacks on Saudi shipping in the Gulf.

Iran contended that the move was a way to prevent Iranians from going to Mecca in July for the annual pilgrimage, scene of bloody clashes last year between Iranian pilgrims and Saudi security forces in which more than 400 people died.

Nine bomb blasts shook Kuwait last year and diplomats and the local media blamed pro-Iranian militants angry at Kuwait's support for Iraq in the Iran-Iraq war.

Riyadh said it was breaking

(Continued on page 8)

relations with Tehran because of its hostile attitude, citing attacks on Saudi-linked shipping in the Gulf and smuggling of explosives into Saudi Arabia.

Tehran Radio contended that the Saudi announcement was only a cover for the real intention of barring Iranian pilgrims for the annual pilgrimage to Mecca in mid-July.

Gulf-based diplomats said

Riyadh's decision to cut ties was almost inevitable after Iran threatened to ignore Saudi limits on pilgrimage numbers and a ban on demonstrations in Mecca.

The Saudis have said that the limits are needed because renovations have cut available accommodation.

Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini said two

(Continued on page 5)

brought by the blast.

"Investigating authorities said

the truck, which arrived in Kabul from Pakistan, must have carried an estimated 150 or so kilograms of explosives," TASS said.

The bombing was likely the work of anti-communist rebels

fighting the Moscow-aligned government of President Najibullah, which Tuesday observed the 10th anniversary of its communist revolution.

The Soviets have been helping the Afghan government for more than eight years in its fight against the insurgents, but are scheduled to begin pulling out next month.

Many Western observers say

they doubt that Najibullah's government, if deprived of Soviet aid,

on the battlefield and arms shipments, would be able to withstand the rebels.

Mujahideen reject proposal

Mujahideen leader Gulbadin Hekmatyar Tuesday rejected the

(Continued on page 5)

• 'We will not be a substitute for PLO'**• 'Jordan and Iraq are defending Arab Order'****King reaffirms unshakeable stands**

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Wednesday the Arab Nation was currently exposed to external and internal threats aimed at its resources and that this nation stands firm and determined to defend the Arab Order and Arab rights.

The King outlined Jordan's stand on efforts towards reaching a solution to the Palestine problem, defending the Arab Order and achieving Arab unity.

Speaking at an iftar banquet he hosted for dignitaries from Zarqa

Governorate, the King said that Iraq was blocking all attempts against the Arab Order and nation and shattering the dream of establishing a Persian empire based on a racist hatred of Arabs.

The King said: "There is no other explanation for the continuation of this (Iranian) aggression against Arabs and Arab lands for eight years with this ferocity and this determination."

(Continued on page 5)

His Majesty contacts Saudi, Iraqi leaders, receives call from Arafat

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday contacted Saudi Arabia's King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz by telephone and exchanged with him views on current Arab issues which require unity and solidarity among Arab brethren, and stressed Jordan's firm support of Saudi Arabia vis-a-vis Iranian provocations.

The King also contacted Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to inquire about Iraq's steadfast stand on the front against Iranian aggression.

The King also received a telephone call from Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), who expressed to the King his appreciation of His Majesty's condolences and his stand over the assassination of martyr Khalil Al Wazir.

Mrs. Wazir thanks King

Yahya and Abdul Rahim Ahmad.

Mrs. Wazir and the delegation thanked the King for his sympathy over the death of Abu Jihad and his visit, along with Her Majesty Queen Noor, Tuesday day to Mrs. Wazir to offer condolences.

Mrs. Wazir and her children arrived in Amman from Damascus Tuesday along with the PNC members and PLO officials.

Blast rocks Saudia office in Kuwait after Riyadh severs diplomatic ties with Tehran

KUWAIT (Agencies) — A time-bomb ripped through the downtown office of Saudi Arabia's national airline Wednesday, injuring a guard and seriously damaging the premises, the interior ministry said.

Eyewitnesses quoted by Reuter said the bomb tore out windows of the Saudia office and a neighbouring travel agency and left the blackened sidewalk covered with glass and twisted metal.

Police said the bomb appeared to have been placed on the side-

walk. It went off at 4:20 p.m. (1320 GMT), but offices and streets were empty due to the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Saudi Arabia said it had cut diplomatic ties with Iran because of Tehran's hostile stands towards Riyadh and attacks on Saudi shipping in the Gulf.

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(Continued on page 5)

France rushes troops to Noumea after new kidnaps

PARIS (R) — France is rushing five plane loads of troops and equipment to its South Pacific territory of New Caledonia after armed separatists took more French hostages Wednesday, French radio reported.

Sources at a military airport near Mantes in western France said five Transall military transport aircraft took off, bound initially for Paris, with an unknown number of troops aboard.

French officials in Noumea said the magistrate, Jean Bianconi, was about to start the talks when he and his six guards were seized by a group of about 15 Kanaks.

In Wadi Rum:

Watching videos and experimenting with potatoes

This is the second of a three-part series on farming in Jordan's southern desert compiled by Jordan Times reporter Salameh Ne'matt after a recent visit to projects in the Wadi Rum area.

GOOD marketing is perhaps one of the most important elements for the success of a farming project. John Camp, the production manager of the Rum Agricultural Company discussed with the Jordan Times his work at the company's project near Wadi Rum.

The company is considering growing onions, beans, carrots and soya beans, according to Camp. But the question of marketing these products is still in the planning phase.

Camp monitors the market on a regular basis to keep informed about marketing shortages and trends so that the company could adjust its production and marketing effort accordingly.

"We monitor the market to see where there is shortage in supply and try to take advantage of the unique situation in Wadi Rum where the farming seasons are longer because of the hot weather. We try to supply the market by producing different varieties during a certain time of the year." On the long run, this effort

Camp says that it is taking some time before adjustment to the market's needs and marketing fluctuations.

"We don't adjust rapidly. Our conditions will be somewhat adjusted from season to season, but not as rapidly as people think it can be done. We want to be more efficient than everybody else," Camp said. "This is our emphasis."

His company is now working on a fruit orchard and providing storage and grading facilities for this new line of produce. "A great emphasis is put on the project," he explained. "There will be a diverse variety of apples, peaches, nectarines, grapes and possibly apricots."

The next step according to the company is working on what is known as downstream industries such as sheep farms, the manufacturing and processing of farm products as well as growing crops for sheep forage.

Social life

Iyad Abu Ali, the deputy farm manager, who is also an agricultural engineer, said that other challenges for the project include the problem of creating a social

life for employees working on the project near Wadi Rum.

"There is no television reception here. This area will soon grow bigger with nearly 100,000 dunums of land cultivated and soon, we will have to look for ways to provide basic services for the people."

Abu Ali explained that with the number of developers increasing in the Wadi Rum area, the size of cultivated land could reach that of the Jordan Valley. "But believe it or not, we still do not have a telephone line."

Camp predicts that finding workers and keeping the ones already employed on Wadi Rum farming projects will soon become "the single biggest problem."

He said many workers "will leave and go to work in places closer to home after they have been trained. We have to find a way to keep them."

Abu Ali's wife is a teacher in Amman where their children go to school.

He said that the project was nevertheless developing, expanding and learning in the direction of offering better incentives to workers.

"In the future," he said, "incentives to our workers could give us the edge over others in the field."

The company's management makes available facilities for workers to practise certain sports such as table tennis and pool as a form of entertainment. But the most popular entertainment is watching video films in the evenings as television broadcasts cannot be received.

Farm manager Maher Affouni discussed the question of why the private sector was more equipped than the government for carrying out such a project as handled by his company.

"The private sector has an edge over the government in this line of business," he said. "The work routine and the question of incentives and operational flexibility are important elements for the success of such a project." He explained that the private sector had much better mobility than the government and that private enterprises offered better incentives for workers.

He added that the element of competition was absent in the case of a government project. "There are no incentives with the government. Whether you work hard or not, you still get your salary. But in the private sector if the employee is not working, he loses his job."

If the work requires us to work 24 hours, we will work 24 hours."

Camp said that when the need arises, "we have all learned to be technicians. We do a lot of teaching so that if somebody is absent for any reason, somebody else automatically takes over and the work continues."

Communication

The project's remote location was cited as one further hurdle that needs to be overcome as it creates a problem of communication, mainly for the purpose of getting the needs of the project such as fertilisers and other farming material.

Affouni complained that the government only went halfway in offering incentives to the private sector and that it should go further in support of investors in this part of the Kingdom. Jordan imports wheat from Saudi Arabia and the policy of private sector

farming companies is to decrease production cost and increase production which is bought by the government at subsidised prices.

The Rum Agricultural Company which started work in 1986, was set up for this particular project by the Astra group, a public shareholding company with great experience in reclaiming arid and semi-arid lands.

One of the project's irrigation experts, Patrick Craig said that there were 30 to 35 wells in the Wadi Rum area and that Aqaba gets its water from Wadi Rum.

He said that there was a possibility of supplying Amman with water from these wells. The water is pumped for irrigation after being screened by a filtration system to get rid of sand in the

water.

"We spent the first 1½ years clearing the wells and we are still drilling for more," Craig said. "It was like a rat race," he said describing work on getting the water wells ready for work.

An irrigation unit consists of the water well, the pump, an underground distribution system that takes water to the centre of the pivot through the distribution line to the pivot's sprinklers (one every eight feet).

The central pivot system provides a maximum of .8 inches of water per acre every 24 hours. (A hectare is 2.5 acres). The central pivot covers a diameter of 900 meters.

On the working process itself, Affouni said that managers, en-

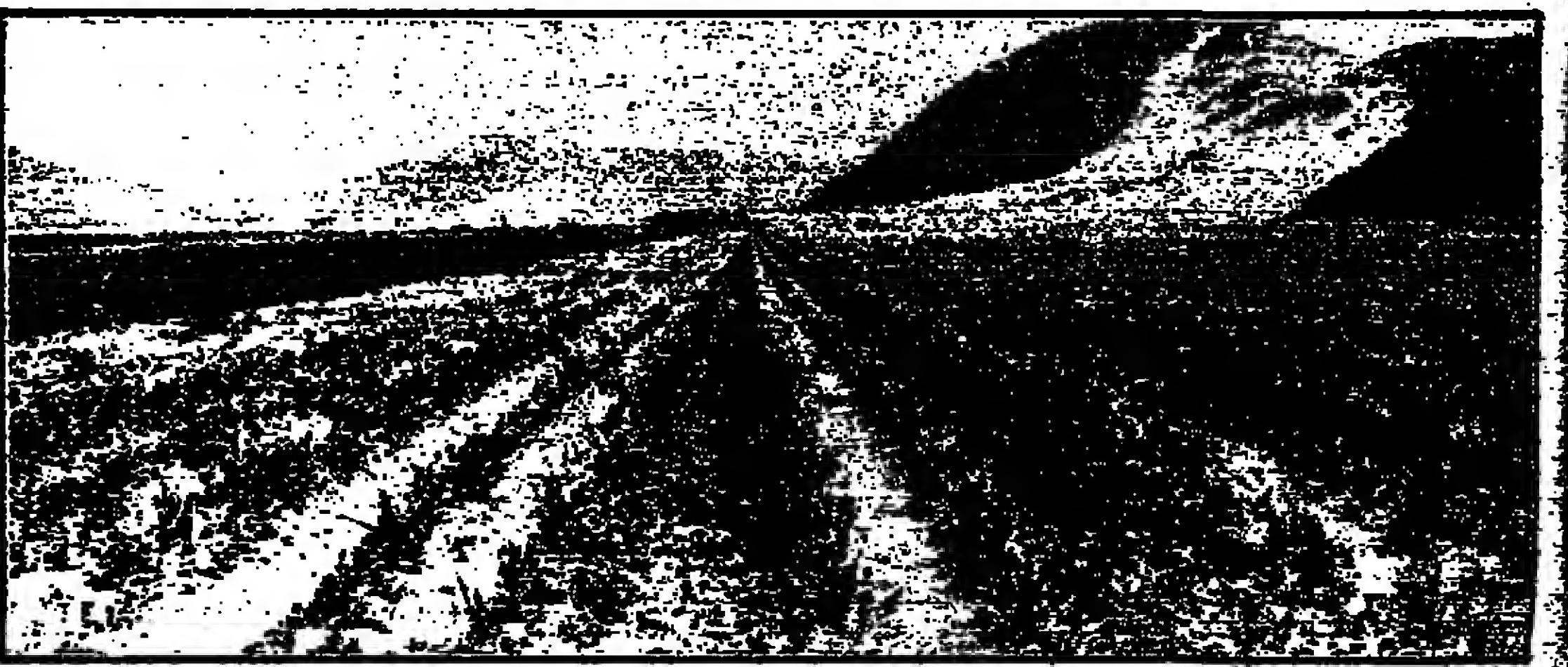
gineers and technicians hold a meeting every day between 6:30 and 8:00 every morning "so that everybody knows at any given time what the other is doing."

The company believes that similar farming projects could work anywhere else in the Kingdom provided water and energy sources are available. The central pivot system costs \$30,000, nearly JD 1 to JD 1.5 per hectare investment. The pivot's lifespan is 10 years while maintenance is said to be not much of a problem.

One man supervises 10 pivots, on day and night shifts. The pivots are shut down when what is known as peak hours between 4:00 and 10:00 p.m. during which electricity industrial rates are not in effect.



Production manager John Camp monitors supply and demand in the local market. Here, he stands next to a water pump at the Wadi Rum project. Photos by Salameh B. Ne'matt



A field of garlic, a commodity usually imported from other Arab or European countries.

Potatoes face serious marketing problems with great fluctuations in prices. Export possibilities are under consideration.

TV & RADIO	WHAT'S GOING ON	FOR THE TRAVELLER	USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19	18:30 Music 19:00 Newsdesk 19:30 Date with a Star 20:00 Evening Show 21:00 News Summary 21:45 Evening Show Contd. 22:00 News Summary 22:30 Evening Show Contd. 23:00 News Summary 23:30 Evening Show Contd. 24:00 Close Down	TODAY'S EVENTS EXHIBITIONS ★ The British Council is showing an exhibition of work by British illustrators over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m. Year-round. Tel: 651760.	QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT 13:50 Cairo (MS) 14:00 Bahrain, Doha, Abu Dhabi (GF) 17:40 Riyadh (SV) 18:20 Kuwait (KU) 20:15 Sana'a (LH) 20:20 Cairo (MS) 21:40 Baghdad (AF)
BBC WORLD SERVICE 639, 720, 1323 kHz	07:00 Newsdesk 07:30 Classical Record Review 07:45 Reflections 07:50 Financial News 08:00 World News 08:00 24 Hours: News Summary 08:30 Pochies' Choice 08:45 The World Today 09:00 Newsdesk 09:30 Great Love Duets 09:45 The Farming World 10:00 World 10:30 Puzzles from all over the world 11:00 Historical series 22:00 News summary in Arabic 23:00 Arabic series 23:30 Arabic film	ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 16:15 Agaba (RJ) 16:30 Cairo (GU) 16:45 Jordan (RJ) 16:50 Jeddah (RJ) 16:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 17:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 17:35 New York, Vienna (RJ) 19:00 Athens (RJ) 19:45 London, Geneva (RJ) 22:00 Bucharest, Larnaca (RJ) 00:55 Rome (RJ) 01:45 Baghdad (RJ)	EMERGENCIES Amman governorate 891223 Amman Civil Defence 198, 199 Civil Defence Irbid 271293, 2723131 Civil Defence Quseir 770733 Civil Defence Deir Alla 661912 Ambulance 193, 775111 Amman downtown fire brigade 620241 First aid 620241 Blood Bank 778302 Civil Defence rescue 661111 Fire headquarters 672009-3 Police headquarters 639141 Traffic police 896390/1
RADIO JORDAN 855 kHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 950 kHz, SW Tel: 774111-19	07:00 Light Music 07:30 Newdesk 08:00 Morning Show 10:00 News Summary Morning Show Contd. 11:00 Country Music 11:30 Hitsville: The Story of Motown 12:00 News Summary 12:30 Now Music 13:00 News Summary 13:30 Pop Session 14:00 News Bulletin 14:30 Instrumental 15:00 News of the Month 15:30 Concert Hour 16:00 News Summary 16:30 Instrumentals 16:30 Old Favourites 17:00 Hitsville: The Story of Motown 17:30 Good Vibrations 18:00 News Summary 18:30 Our Mutual Friend	FEATURE FILM ★ "Charlie Chaplin Collection" at 5:00 p.m. Thursday at the American Centre. FILM "Chissi perche capitano tante cose" (Italian) at 9:00 p.m. Thursday at the Haya Arts Centre. CULTURAL CENTRES Royal Cultural Centre Tel: 6610267 American Centre Tel: 644371 American Centre Library 641520 British Council 6361478 French Cultural Centre 637009 Goethe Institute 641993 Soviet Cultural Centre 644203 Spanish Cultural Centre 620409 Turkish Cultural Centre 639777 Haya Arts Center 665195 St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel: 771751 Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel: 771331 Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel: 775261 St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel: 771751 Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shunaisi. Tel: 677534 Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman, Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Shir. Tel: 611295 MUSEUMS "Children's Heritage and Science	Wednesday rates Local self/buy rates in fils Belgian franc 95.5/ 97.1 Dutch guilder 178.1/ 181 French franc 58.7/ 59.8 Italian lira 26.9/ 27.3 Japanese yen (for 100) 268/ 273 Swedish krona 56.9/ 57.9 U.S. dollar 252.5/ 254.4 U.K. sterling pound 625.5/ 637.4 U.S. dollar 334.2/ 339.3 W. German mark 199.6/ 203.1
FOR FRIDAY JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19	22:00 Around the world (Arabic) 22:30 Programme on Islam 23:00 News summary in Arabic 23:10 Arabic series	CHURCHES St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman. Tel: 645950 Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luweibdeh. Tel: 645950 De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein. Tel: 661755 Terrassas Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luweibdeh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel: 622366 Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel: 816534, 817534 DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 08:30 Agaba (RJ) 11:30 Bucharest (RJ) 11:45 Jordan (RJ) 13:55 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF) 14:10 Kuwait (KU) 16:00 Riyadh (SV) 18:20 Amsterdam, Istanbul (KLM) 19:25 Frankfurt (RJ) 19:35 Cain (MS) 20:10 Zurich, Larnaca (BA) 20:45 Paris (AF) 01:00 London, Cairo (BA)	PRAYER TIMES 04:21 Fajr (Sunrise) Duffus 05:46 Dhuhr 12:33 Asr 16:14 Magrib 19:28 'Isha 20:46
RADIO JORDAN 855 kHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 950 kHz, SW Tel: 774111-19	07:00 Light Music 07:30 Newdesk 08:00 Morning Show 10:00 News Summary Morning Show Contd. 11:00 Country Music 11:30 Hitsville: The Story of Motown 12:00 News Summary 12:30 Now Music 13:00 News Summary 13:30 Pop Session 14:00 News Bulletin 14:30 Instrumental 15:00 News of the Month 15:30 Concert Hour 16:00 News Summary 16:30 Instrumentals 16:30 Old Favourites 17:00 Hitsville: The Story of Motown 17:30 Good Vibrations 18:00 News Summary 18:30 Our Mutual Friend	DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 08:30 Agaba (RJ) 11:30 Bucharest (RJ) 11:45 Jordan (RJ) 13:55 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF) 14:10 Kuwait (KU) 16:00 Riyadh (SV) 18:20 Amsterdam, Istanbul (KLM) 19:25 Frankfurt (RJ) 19:35 Cain (MS) 20:10 Zurich, Larnaca (BA) 20:45 Paris (AF) 01:00 London, Cairo (BA)	NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. A. Najjar 775050 Dr. Mahmoud Jaber 896691 Dr. Wa'il Kharabli (-) Dr. Arwan Aqrabi 642696 Foreign pharmacy 783334 Al Asensia pharmacy 623655 Al Salam pharmacy 636730 Yacob pharmacy 640445 Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
FOR FRIDAY JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19	22:00 Rhythm and Blues 23:00 Newsdesk 23:30 The Musical in Review 24:00 Close Down	OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 12:30 Baghdad (IA) 13:45 Cairo (MS) 13:55 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF) 14:10 Kuwait (KU) 16:00 Riyadh (SV) 18:20 Amsterdam, Istanbul (KLM) 19:25 Frankfurt (RJ) 19:35 Cain (MS) 20:10 Zurich, Larnaca (BA) 20:45 Paris (AF) 01:00 London, Cairo (BA)	HOSPITALS Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann. 644281/6 Aklich Maternity, J. Ann. 64441/2 Ishbel Maternity Maternity 626142 Malha, J. Ammar 636140 Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4 Shmeisani Hospital 669131 University Hospital 845245 Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9 The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37 Al-Abi, Al-Mubajreen 664164/6 Al-Batil, Al-Muqarr 771112/6 Al-Batil, A. Ashraf 891611/15 Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50 Amal Hospital 674155
RADIO JORDAN 855 kHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 950 kHz, SW Tel: 774111-19	22:00 Rhythm and Blues 23:00 Newsdesk 23:30 The Musical in Review 24:00 Close Down	WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. It will be dusty and dry with warm air mass. Medium and high clouds will appear at times. Winds will be light to northwesterly moderate. In Agaba, it will be dry and warm, with northerly moderate winds and calm seas.	GENERAL Jordan Television 773111/97 Radio Jordan 774111/97 Ministry of Tourism 667211/21 Hotel complaints 666412 Price complaints 665176 Telephone Information 77 Jordan and Middle East calls 77 Overseas calls 77 Repair service 77
FOR FRIDAY JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19	22:00 Rhythm and Blues 23:00 Newsdesk 23:30 The Musical in Review 24:00 Close Down	OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 06:20 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH) 10:00 Dammaskus, Paris (AF)	MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in fils per kg. Apple (French) 420/ 360 Apple (green) 470/ 400 Apple (Lebanese) 300/ 250 Banana 300/ 240 Banana (Mukhamar) 300/ 240 Oranges (local) 230/ 200 Lemon 250/ 200 Mallow 250/ 200 Mizrou 200/ 150 Onion (green) 140/ 100 Onion (dry) 120/ 80 Cucumbers 120/ 80 Onions (Shmeisani) 120/ 80 Parsley 100/ 80 Pepper 200/ 150 Carrot 170/ 140 Cauliflower (white) 200/ 150 Pepper (sweet) 200/ 150 Potato 120/ 80 Radish 100/ 80 Spinach 150/ 100 Strawberry 120/ 100 Tomato 120/ 100 Garlic (green) 24

Hot and dry weather expected in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Hot and dry weather is expected to affect the Kingdom over the coming two days, due to a khameisin depression centred over Egypt and moving eastward, according to the Department of Meteorology's deputy director.

He said winds blowing from the west and south-west will be carrying dust to all parts of the Kingdom.

He said that the khameisin weather conditions normally help the movement of locusts towards the north, and enable these swarms of locusts to cross greater distances as they are being blown along by the high and hot winds.

"Therefore, it is quite possible that swarms of locusts will be heading towards Jordan from Egypt and northern Saudi Arabia," he noted.

The Meteorological Department's statement followed another by the Ministry of Agriculture's secretary general Tuesday in which he said Jordan is now free of locusts, but all precautionary measures have been taken in the face of any eventuality.

Secretary General Salem Al Lawzi said that the Ministry of

Agriculture has allocated sufficient funds and purchased required equipment and other material to combat the pests in the event they infiltrate into Jordanian territory.

According to Lawzi, swarms of locusts have already invaded several North African countries, including Egypt, and that they have crossed the Red Sea and settled in parts of north Saudi Arabia bordering Jordan.

He said that aerial surveillance of the southern regions were continuing and ground teams have been placed on full alert to combat the pest.

Jordan's last serious locust invasion was in 1959 when the insects devastated crops in the Jordan Valley.

The Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday reported meetings being held by local officials and governors in the southern regions of the country, to study the most effective measures to be taken in combating the locusts.

According to the report, operation rooms have been set up, and school children have been recruited to offer help during an emergency.

Hamzeh opens Hai Nazzal health centre

AMMAN (Petra) — A health centre was opened at Hai Nazzal district to offer medical care to nearly 70,000 people.

The centre operated by the Health Ministry will offer services to Hai Nazzal, Jabal Akhdar, Amawi, Badir, Thir'a, Ghurb and Thir'a Sharqi districts, according to health officials.

Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh opened the centre which contains units for general practice,

emergency and first-aid services, a pharmacy, a mother and child care centre and other services.

The minister met with the local residents at the opening ceremony and underlined the importance of primary health care being sponsored by the Health Ministry in Jordan.

He said that the Health Ministry strives to increase the health centres and to promote their services to the public.

Poultry slaughterhouse markets 12,000 birds daily

AMMAN (Petra) — The poultry slaughterhouse owned by the Greater Amman Municipality has been producing up to 12,000 birds ready for the market on a daily basis since the start of the month of Ramadan on April 17.

Before Ramadan the slaughterhouse was producing up to 25,000 birds for the market, double the present rate, the director said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

He said the slaughterhouse's capacity is 40,000 birds a day, but the decline came about as a result of the drop in the quantity of poultry arriving at the slaughterhouse. "This is because of low

price of poultry over the past few months that was caused by the great supply in the local market."

The low prices prompted farmers to refrain from working in full capacity for fear of sustaining losses in the sale of their poultry later on, according to the director.

He said by supplying half the quantity to the market the farmers were hoping that the prices would stabilise once the oversupply factor has been removed.

Before the month of Ramadan a kilogramme of poultry meat was bought at 400 fils from the farms but due to the shortage it rose to 580 fils.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

LAWZI RECEIVES ENVOYS: Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi Wednesday met separately with the Japanese and Austrian ambassadors in Amman and re-visited with them existing relations between Jordan and each of Japan and Austria.

DENTISTRY: Jordan University of Science and Technology in Irbid will take part in the annual conference of the U.S. Academy of Dentistry which will be held in San Francisco between May 8-15.

SUPPORT FOR UPRISING: The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) in Balqa governorate has decided to make a donation of one-day salary from all the staff of the charitable societies in the governorate, to support the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

TOYS FROM U.K.: A presentation of children's toys was made Tuesday to the Jordan Save the Children Fund by the British embassy. The toys, which were specially imported from the U.K., will be distributed among various community centres in the Ma'an area.

UREIKAT MEETS REEVE: British Ambassador to Jordan Anthony Reeve met with Minister of Labour and Social Development Rashid Ureikat Wednesday to discuss scopes of cooperation between their two countries in social development and voluntary work.

COURSE FOR NURSES: A training course on health care, organised by the Department of Health in Mafraq, ended Wednesday. The course was attended by 30 nurses, health officials and assistants. The three-day course entailed lectures on vaccines and means of combating diarrhoea among children.

AGRICULTURE: The Department of Agriculture in Karak has organised a seminar to provide directions and guidance to farmers in the Salt Al Karak district, about means of combating pests that damage fruit trees. Several agricultural engineers and officials from the agricultural extension service delivered lectures on the subject.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: The Cabinet has endorsed a court sentence on Mohamad Ahmad Abu Dayyeh from Al Jib town near Ramallah for selling property to Israelis. The court ruled that Abu Dayyeh would be executed by hanging, the contract for sale should be considered null and void, and that the property should be regarded as owned by the state.

IPU MEETING: Jordan's delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting in Guatemala returned to Amman on Tuesday, according to a report in Al Ra'i Arabic daily. The paper said that the delegation which was led by former minister Hazem Nusseibeh included members of both Houses of Parliament and the Parliament's Secretary General Hani Khair.

2 DIE IN ACCIDENTS: Two people were killed and 20 others wounded in different incidents and road accidents that took place in the country in the past 25 hours, according to Al Ra'i Arabic paper. It said the road accidents were responsible for one death and most of the injuries and the destruction of six vehicles. In one road accident three people were injured when their car collided with a pick up truck in Sweileh region. It also said that a little girl in Bani Kinana district was treated at the government hospital in Irbid after eating contaminated food.

RIDING FOR DISABLED: Philippa Verry, a world famous rider, will be giving a riding demonstration for the Riding for the Disabled at 11 a.m. Friday, April 29, at the Arabian Horse Club, Airport Road.



QUEEN OPENS FESTIVAL: Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday opened at the Roman Amphitheatre the First Festival of Heritage and Islamic Books. The festival includes an exhibition of Arabic calligraphy, documents and photographs, in addition to film presentations and cultural programmes for children (Petra photo)

Haj Hassan, UNDP team discuss privatisation of PTC

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) met here Wednesday with Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan to discuss steps being taken in transformation of the Public Transport Corporation (PTC) into a company owned and operated by the private sector in Jordan.

The decision to transform the PTC into a private enterprise had been taken by the government in order to stimulate the corporation's operations.

Haj Hassan, addressing the delegation said that the government was keen on enabling the corporation to make more profits by

operating with more flexibility and with more freedom, in order to provide more and better services for the public.

The minister and the delegation members reviewed a report submitted on the project which called for an improvement of the existing network, in accordance with a plan that would cater to the medium and long-term needs.

Haj Hassan said this ministry recommends introducing improvements in the Amman region's transportation network as a first step accompanying the transformation of the corporation into a private owned company, before other expansions can be made to networks in other parts of the country.

The decision to transform the PTC into a private enterprise had been taken by the government in order to stimulate the corporation's operations.

Haj Hassan, addressing the delegation said that the government was keen on enabling the corporation to make more profits by

spoke in detail on the different aspects of the report, calling Haj Hassan's attention to the need to introduce improvements to the existing network, in accordance with a plan that would cater to the medium and long-term needs.

Haj Hassan said that such improvement can be made through the involvement of other transport organisations operating in the Kingdom.

The UNDP had financed a study on the transformation of the PTC into a private shareholding company at the cost of \$300,000.

Attending the meeting with the minister was the PTC director general and senior officials.

Jordan, Egypt conduct first microwave telephone link

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Egypt Wednesday conducted the first microwave telephone communication, which was recently installed, linking the two countries through the Aqaba-Sinai peninsula zone.

The telephone contact was made by Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan with his Egyptian counterpart Suleiman Mitwalli.

which came in the course of Egypt's celebrations of the liberation of Sinai from Israeli rule.

The project was implemented in response to a resolution taken by the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee, according to Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications official.

The official said that with the introduction of the new system 310 telephone channels have

been opened for the benefit of people of both countries in addition to the satellite communication channels.

He said that 120 channels of the new system will be assigned for direct contacts between Egypt and Jordan, 120 others for contacts between Jordan and Europe through Egypt and 60 for transit calls made in Egypt for links with Syria, Iraq and the Gulf region through Jordan.

NRA discovers new mineral water spring

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Natural Resources Authority (NRA) has discovered a hot spring with mineral water at 52 degrees centigrade at Ghor Hadith near Karak, in southern Jordan, according to a report in Al Dusour Arabic daily.

The report said that the hot spring was discovered as NRA teams were prospecting for oil shale some 40 kilometres away from Karak.

The report said that the spring will be turned over to the Tourism Authority to be exploited as a touristic attraction.

If the report is true then Jordan will have four such springs which are being used as health spas.

These are Al Himmeh near the Syrian border, Zarqa Ma'in Spa near Madaba, Afra Springs near Tafileh together with the new spring near Karak.



Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh delivers a lecture Wednesday at the Police Academy in Amman (Petra photo)

Rawabdeh outlines new municipal system

AMMAN (Petra) — Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh said Wednesday that the city of Amman was suffering from chronic problems, represented in the random and ill-organised building operations and irregular municipal services before 1987, when a decision was taken to unify, organise and control services in the Greater Amman region.

Building was encroaching on agricultural land and local administration was not organised to control this phenomenon, due to the lack of proper plans and the absence of a proper authority that could take charge of different projects, the mayor said in a lecture he delivered at the Police Academy in Amman.

Rawabdeh said agreement was reached on unifying the efforts of the municipalities of Amman with those of towns lying on its outskirts, and on organising municipal services to this larger area in two stages.

The first stage, beginning in 1987 and lasting four years, entails cancelling the Old Amman Municipality system and the municipal councils that had been operating in the suburban districts, Rawabdeh noted.

Instead, he said the whole area was divided into 20 districts governed by a central municipal council, representing Amman proper and the other towns and municipalities that merged with the capital.

Each of the previous municipalities have five representatives in the Central Council, which also groups representatives of various government departments who have to coordinate their work with the Greater Amman Municipal Council.

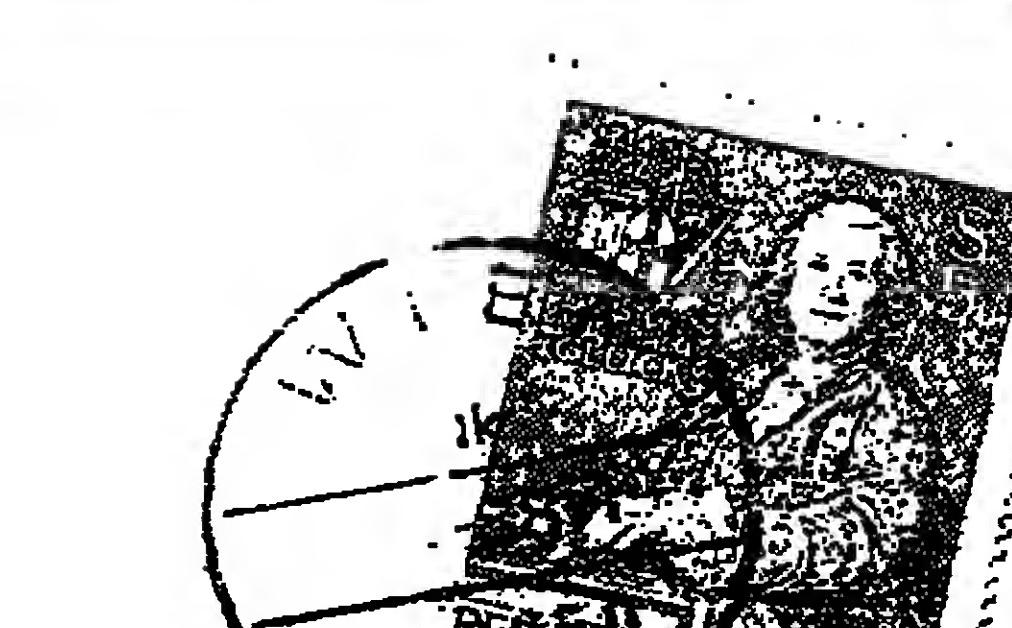
According to Rawabdeh, the second stage will not be implemented before a law on the organisation of the Greater Amman region has been enacted.

He said the second stage envisages the creation of new municipalities elected by the local population, but governed by a central council of 40 to 60 members representing these municipalities in the Greater Amman area.

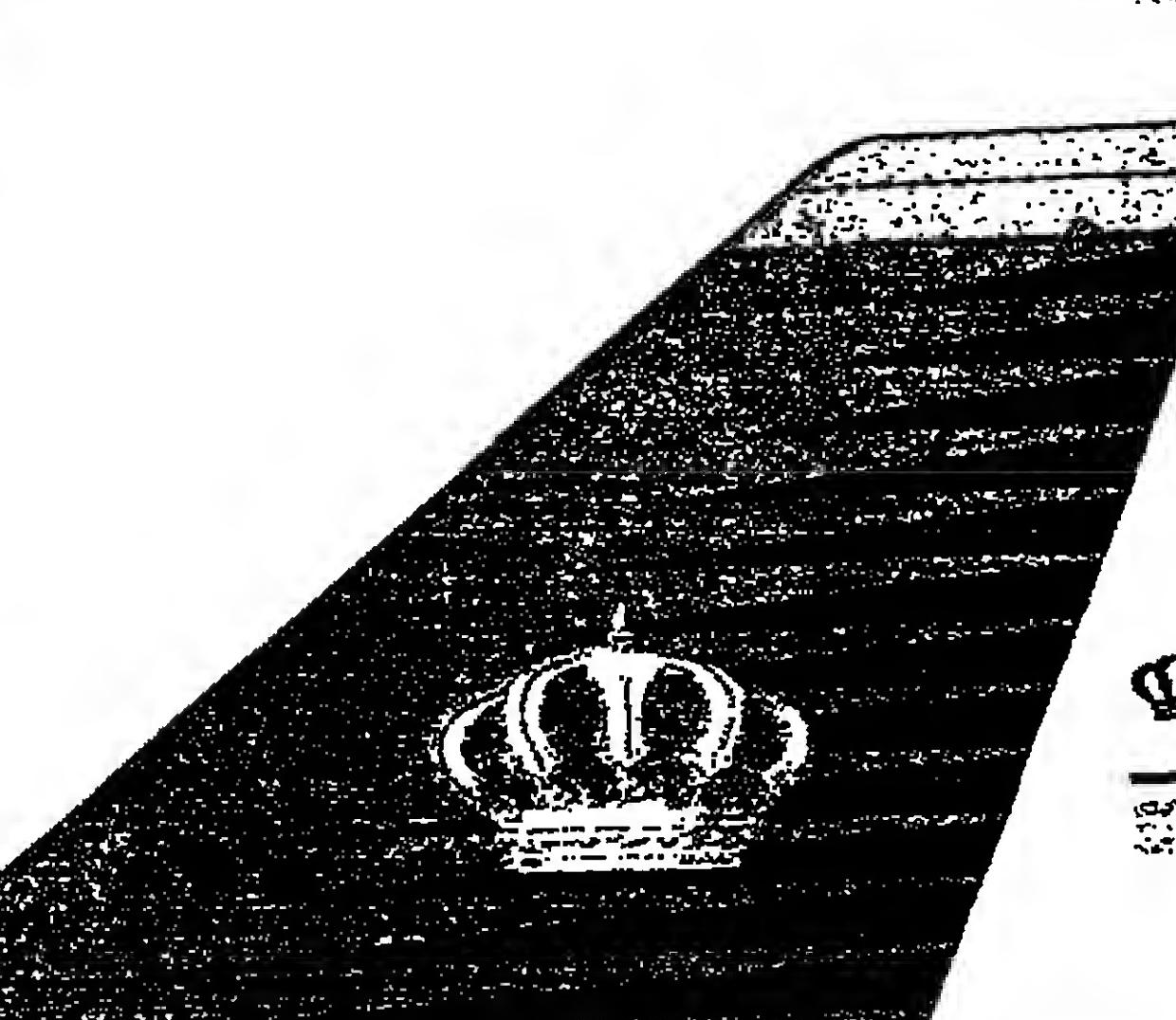
The Central Council will be in charge of matters related to traffic, development projects, municipal services and re-organisation work.

Rawabdeh presented a briefing on the capital's development over the years since the end of the World War II.

Dear chris
Well, here I am at last in
old Vienna - I should have done it
years ago. Friendly people,
cobbled streets, beautiful parks
and delicious food. A great trip on
Royal Jordanian! Vienna's
international Airport was so efficient
and the welcome was wonderful.
A good start for the holiday
"Auf wiedersehen"
as they say here:
Love Bob



C. Smith
P.O. Box 302
AMMAN-JORDAN



Setting new standards.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1976

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Responsible Editor and Director General:
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Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Israel's newly-bought settlers

EVER heard of a country bribing people to immigrate? Well, this is precisely the means Israel seems to have adopted in its concerted drive to attract Jews to go to the "promised land," to compensate for the increasing number of disgruntled Jews leaving the country. Labelled as "absorption grants," an unspecified amount of money is being made available to every Jew who arrives in Israel to settle down; no doubt, nowhere else other than the occupied West Bank. Immigrants will be free to use the money as they please; whether to stay in luxury hotels until Israeli officials present them with the keys to new "housing units," or to do anything else as long as their plans do not include departure from the country, since the only unspoken condition is once the money is received the "immigrant" cannot leave.

Among other incentives offered to potential immigrants are subsidised rentals and help with mortgage arrangements, in addition to resident advisers from the ministry of absorption in most hotels. Perhaps it will be no longer strange for a visitor to be accosted by a stranger offering money right in the hotel lobby, in return for a signature on the dotted line of immigration papers.

One would have thought it more logical for Jews to pay Israel for the privilege of living in the "promised land." After all, the country was created as the ultimate homeland for the Jews of the world. But it is not so. Israel has to entice Jews with bribes and all kinds of promises to immigrate.

The gradual shift to cash incentives appears to have been prompted by Israel's realisation that coercion does not work any more. Gone are the days when Jews flocked to the "land of milk and honey" (though in some cases they were terrorised into doing so after carefully arranged Zionist attacks against Jews, including bombings of synagogues and other Jewish targets). The awareness has taken root among world Jewry that the homes that they may set up in the "promised land" are on land that has been taken from its rightful owners. Furthermore, Israel's own system of quasi-racist policies — that of subtle segregation of Orientals and Occidentals, with the latter enjoying the upper hand — has ceased to be a secret.

It may appear puzzling how Israel can afford to be so generous with immigrants, when the country is facing economic hardships; but it is not a question of generosity, but of need for more and more people to settle the occupied West Bank and to strengthen the de facto annexation of the territory. It only underlines the conviction that Israel is determined to hang onto the territory at any cost. It should be a clear message to Israel's financial backers — whether in Europe or in the U.S. — that a negotiated settlement and "territorial compromise" are not in Israel's mind, and that every payment sent to Israel is turned into another obstacle in the path to peace in the Middle East.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

AJ Ra'i: Questions to Shultz

THE United States abstained from voting on a U.N. Security Council resolution that condemned the assassination of PLO commander Khalil Al Wazir. Security Council members had on purpose refrained from explicitly stating that it was Israel which assassinated Wazir to ensure that it would not be vetoed by Washington. The U.S. does not condemn Israel's terrorist actions or acts of assassination or the breaking of the bones of youths or other atrocities committed against the Arab population. The U.S. does not consider these matters as terrorist actions and therefore it continues to extend military, economic and political support to the Jewish state, supplying the Israeli leaders with means to maintain their crimes and their occupation of Arab land. Washington's abstention from condemning Israel's crimes implies encouragement to the Jewish state to pursue its terrorist practices, and its criminal actions against the Arab people and the PLO. Such behaviour is a clear demonstration of U.S. policy with regard to the rights of the Palestinian people in their land and an expression of continued backing to Israel's actions in the future. According to Israeli sources, abstention from voting on the Security Council resolution was upon instructions from U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz personally. If this is true we wonder about the outcome of Shultz's coming tour in our region under the pretext of seeking peace. If Washington offers Israel all means for carrying out terrorist activity, and backs its actions before the world, how are we supposed to accept the U.S. mediation for a settlement, and how can we accept the U.S. to act as an arbitrator in the conflict?

AJ Dustour: Damascus reconciliation

MOST Arab countries have followed Jordan's declaration of support for the Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation and welcomed the Syrian and PLO leadership's intention to take a joint action with regard to Israel's policies. This unanimous Arab welcome of reconciliation between these two important parties in the Arab-Israeli conflict is regarded as very essential, following the assassination of PLO deputy commander Khalil Al Wazir in Tunis. There is no doubt that the Syrian-Palestinian agreement would open a new chapter in relations between the two sides or the benefit of the Arab cause, and for serving the Palestinian people. There is no doubt that the Damascus reconciliation was influenced by the positive results of the Amman summit meeting held last November which paved the way for fruitful cooperation among Arab states, and enhanced solidarity among Arab people everywhere. Also, the current uprising in the occupied Arab territories has encouraged both sides to pool their efforts and their resources and to unite their ranks vis-a-vis the common danger. The two sides are now in agreement on the manner in which they would extend support and help to the uprising and on means of escalating the struggle against the Israeli occupation. We in Jordan warmly welcome this reconciliation and consider it as complimentary to the consensus reached by the Arab leaders at their Amman summit. We hope that it will open the way for stronger inter-Arab relations.

Sawt Al Shaab: Only one option

ISRAEL has been occupying Arab lands for the past 40 years, but has never been able to change the de facto situation, namely that its rule over Arab territory is rejected by the legitimate owners of the land. Israel for the past 40 years has been showing its aggressive nature to the world; and by force, it has been imposing an iron fist rule over the Arab lands in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. But Israeli leaders realise quite well that regardless of the unlimited help and continued support it receives from other nations, Israel cannot perpetuate its occupation of Arab land through terrorism. Above all, Israel with all its might, cannot put down the Arab revolt that has swept the Arab region and can never deter the lawful owners of the land from maintaining the struggle for freedom. Israel's repressive measures imposed on the Arabs and the economic punishment it is imposing on the Arab citizens will do no good. The only option before Israel is to accept peace and recognise the rights of the Palestinian people in their own homeland.

GUEST COLUMN

By Dr. Asa'd Abdul Rahman

Is there any more exaltation for Abu Jihad?

APRIL is supposedly the month of flowers and spring. However, it seems that — for Palestinians and Arabs — it has become a month of martyrdom. During April, we lost the cream of our freedom fighters. From Abdul Qader Al Hussaini, who fell in the field on April 8 exactly 40 years ago, to the assassination of Dr. Basil Al Kubaysi by the Israelis in Paris April 5, 1973, to the assassination of Kamal Nassar, Kamal Odwan and Yusuf Al Najjar, on April 9, 1973. These martyrs — plus many others — were all killed in defence of the Palestinian cause. Today we mourn Abu Jihad — the deputy military commander of the PLO.

Tears were not shed from my eyes, as if they were frozen. Ever since I heard the bad news I was half sad and half angry. Sad because the loss of Abu Jihad is a serious blow to our cause, and angry because of the humiliating manner and relative ease with which his assassination was carried out. How could we lose such a brilliant military commander that easily? Why did we make it possible for the enemy to achieve this, and allow the assassins to escape completely unscathed? And how could Palestinian security be violated that easily?

The feeling of anger and frustration was gradually replaced by an increased feeling of grief; not only because we lost Abu Jihad, but because I was more or less astounded by the wider Arab dimension of the calamity. How could the shores and airspace of seven Arab countries overlooking the Mediterranean be trespassed so easily? How could the territories and integrity of the country hosting the Arab League be violated? Is it not because of all of this that the "Palestinian inefficiency" floated to the surface? Isn't Palestinian security — after all — an integral part of the security of this wide expanse of land called the Arab World? Isn't Palestinian security an integral part of the wider Arab security? Why, then, are we so astonished by the violation of Abu Jihad's headquarters, and before

his of Abu Ammar's? The territorial integrity of all the Arab countries surrounding Israel was violated in 1967 and the years that followed. Beirut was violated. The airspace and territorial waters of several Arab countries were flagrantly violated when Israel raided and destroyed the Iraqi nuclear reactor. Israel is daily violating — amidst complete Arab impotence — the pride and lives of a million and a half Arab Palestinians in the occupied territories, and of thousands of fellow Syrians in the occupied Golan Heights, and of the majority of the Lebanese and Palestinians living in Lebanon.

In the late sixties and early seventies, we heard about Abu Jihad "the rightist," among other degrading names. Then came the moment of truth. It was until the deputy leader of the PLO came more and more under the light of events, that we realised how unfair and unjust we were to him. The modest, amiable Abu Jihad, who also had a charming personality and character, had gained the title of the "Prince of Fatah." At the same time, we knew Abu Jihad, the cautious, reticent military leader, who works much and brags little, and who was deeply involved in unifying the political and military forces of the PLO — an involvement which truly gained him, especially after the Aden, Algiers, Prague, and Tripoli agreements, the title of the "Prince of Palestinian National Unity." Later, we realised how great his contributions were to making and leading the uprising in the occupied territories. Is there anything more prodigious than this? It is obvious, now, that Israel was irritated and obsessed by him to such a high degree that it sent its elite troops some 2,000 kilometres to kill him at point blank range, and with such unprecedented hatred and cold-bloodedness. Is there any more exaltation for Abu Jihad than this?

The writer is director of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation and member of the Palestine National Council.

Towards the extreme

By Anthony Lewis

PARIS — Whatever chance there might have been for early negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbours is now gone. The fragile hopes raised by Secretary of State Shultz have been destroyed by events of the last three weeks.

The assassination of Abu Jihad, the number two PLO leader, has strengthened the most radical elements in the PLO. No Palestinian who matters is going to come forward now to talk of peace with Israel. Neither, in all likelihood, is Jordan or any other Arab country.

Ezer Weizman, a member of Israel's inner cabinet who wants to find a way to peace with the Palestinians, put the fact bluntly on Israeli army radio. The assassination, he said, "distances the peace process and will bring greater hostility."

That was a predictable result of killing Abu Jihad. It must have been anticipated when, according to detailed reports, the Israeli government ordered the attack. So the assassination showed that effective political power in Israel is now in the hands of men who care little about peace negotiations — or, indeed, are opposed to the idea.

Behind the facade of Israel's national unity government, the policy that matters is being made by the right: Prime Minister Shultz, his Likud Party and even more extreme elements. That was evident in the handling of the other important event of recent weeks: The incident in the West Bank village of Beita on April 6, when two Palestinians and a 15-year-old Israeli girl were killed.

The girl, first reported killed by a stone, was found by an army inquiry to have been shot. The bullet came from the gun of a guard who accompanied a group of Israeli hikers: An extremist follower of Rabbi Meir Kahane whom the Israeli army had forbidden to carry a gun. Much worse might have happened if a Beita villager, Mahmoud Gurub Ben Shamma, had not grabbed the gun and bent the barrel, making it unusable.

Last week Israel deported Ben Shamma and five other residents of Beita. As always in these cases, there were no charges, no trial, just a quick dumping of the men into Lebanon. As always, Israel spurned objections from the United States that for an occupying power to throw people out of their homeland violates international law.

Justice Brandeis wrote 60 years

ago that deporting a man from his home may deprive him of "all that makes life worth living." What kind of justice has Israel come to that it deports a Palestinian moderate who may have saved lives by grabbing a gun from a known fanatic and killer?

The answer to that question is: Settler justice. The Israeli settlers in the West Bank include a large number of religious-nationalist fanatics who make no secret of their belief that the 1.5 million Palestinian inhabitants of the occupied territories must either submit to Israeli dominion or get out. Many agree with Rabbi Kahane's policy: Forced expulsion of all Arabs.

Fear of the settlers drove the government's policy after the Beita incident. To appease the settlers' anger, officials gave the order to blow up 14 houses in Beita — again without a semblance of justice. The deportation orders followed.

The Beita affair showed how little moderation the Labour Party brings to the government now. Its leader, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, defended the summary deportations, saying "We are not deporting residents, just inciters and agitators and extremists." Another conviction without a trial.

And what was done after Beita still was not enough to satisfy the settlers. They demanded that the government also deport Palestinian moderates who have spoken out in the past for negotiations and peace.

The New Republic, a magazine highly supportive of Israel, summed up the political import of the Beita incident as follows: "It reminded Israelis of the extent to which they are, in fact, hostage to their own fanatics and madmen."

The deepest irony of Israel's hardline policies in the West Bank and Gaza is that they are privately opposed by the top ranks of the army. The commanders know that kowtowing to the settlers makes security not less but more difficult. They fear that the course of rejectionism and injustice will increase tensions with the Palestinians and imperil the state.

Perhaps the 40th anniversary of Israel, just celebrated, will make people recall the aspirations that accompanied the dreams. Louis Brandeis was not only a great Supreme Court Justice; he was the leading American Zionist of his time. I think he would look at where Israel is going today and be heartick — The New York Times.

Scandal haunts Kohl's party in West German state elections

By Bjorn Edlund

Reuter

MOELLIN, West Germany — The ghost of a state premier who died amid political scandal haunts Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) ahead of elections in Schleswig-Holstein next Saturday.

"But he is obviously still very present," Hoffmann said. "He is always at the back of our minds, and will continue to occupy us for a long time to come."

Hoffmann's campaign leaflet oozes disavowal of the rash, headstrong ways Barschel was known for: "A politician with new qualities, a human being who thinks before replying... He reasons calmly and is willing to listen to the arguments of others."

A posthumous state parliament enquiry said Barschel ordered spying on the sex life of his SPD opponent, Bjoern Engholm, and a false denunciation of Engholm for tax fraud.

Poster slogan.

He told Reuters that CDU members ask him about Barschel less often as the campaign draws closer to the May 8 ballot, called after a dead heat in last September's scandal elections.

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"May 8 — a day of wiping the slate clean," say SPD posters adorning town lamp posts throughout this small state bordering Denmark, East Germany, the North Sea and the Baltic.

The liberal Free Democrats (FDP), which aims at forming a coalition with the CDU, is campaigning as a force to check the power of the CDU.

"The best guarantee against the abuse of power," the FDP poster says.

But polls say that the liberals, junior partners in Kohl's federal centre-right government, cannot bank on garnering the five per cent needed to enter parliament.

Starting anew, leaving Barschel behind, atoning for his excesses, is the recurring undertone of the campaign. But CDU strategists say lingering bitterness may cause many of its traditional voters to abstain.

Constant bickering in the coalition, especially between the CDU and its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU), does little to help the CDU candidate state.

But the SPD's Engholm, badly shaken last year by what the West German press dubbed "the Barschel affair," said he was enjoying the novel air of decency in state politics.

"The tone is totally different now," he told Reuters at a campaign stop in Ploen, a small town in an area of hills and lakes called the Switzerland of Holstein.

"I have not heard any personal attacks at all," he said.

"This allows the campaign to concentrate on the issues, which I prefer. But it makes things boring for people who are used to the shrill tones of German politics, and who don't listen unless you call the other fellow an idiot."

The EDU again condemns the Israeli brutalities against the civil population and in particular children in the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank. The Israeli measures are in breach of numerous instruments of international law.

Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg, a former premier in this state and Barschel's political mentor, lost his position as Kohl's tipped successor over the affair.

Diplomats said Kohl let Stoltenberg ride out the storm alone when the SPD called for his resignation, in order to cut down the size of a potential challenger.

"In federal politics, leaving Stoltenberg a couple of sizes smaller was the most main fallout of the Barschel scandal," a Bonn-based European diplomat said.

Schleswig-Holstein, which after World War II had its population doubled by refugees from East Germany and former German provinces in Eastern Europe, is fighting decay in its main industries — farming and shipbuilding.

Both Hoffmann, who has not written off the chance to form a CDU-FDP government, and Engolm, who proudly points to the CSU giving the SPD between 47 and 50 per cent of the vote, make the economy their main non-Barschel campaign issue.

Absenteeism and a drift of the traditional CDU farm vote toward small splinter groups on the far right make for a gloomy picture for the CDU.

In the state, the environmental Greens are dominated by a faction which has ruled out coalitions with any party.

In Barschel's home town of Moellin, a lake-side resort of picturesque red-brick buildings set among gentle fields and forests, no campaign rallies are planned.

"The shock is still there," said Lieselotte Rothe, who owns a cafe beside the old water mill that gave the town its name.

"I don't know if I'll vote this time," she said, adding she is a long-time CDU member. "If you have been let down like we were, politicians will have to earn our trust all over again."

OPEN FORUM

Humane ways, please

ONCE again it is proudly brought to our notice that dogs are being poisoned to "eliminate the harmful animals... as large areas of the northern Jordan Valley are infested with them" and also plagues of rats!

It is not time in this enlightened day and age that the authorities used other more humane methods? Unfortunately for rats, the only method for them is poisoning, because they live in holes and cannot exactly be "rounded up" — but dogs can, and can then be humanely destroyed. Poisoning is extremely painful and long-drawn-out and should be stopped.

I dread to think where the substance is being put for the dogs. As they do not live in holes, it must be where other animals, perhaps genuine pets with owners, and possibly unsuspecting children have access to it.

If huge numbers of dogs are running around then it is the fault of human beings who are allowing them to do so. The answer is to educate them to look after their dogs properly, and eventually to encourage a neutering programme to prevent hordes of unwanted puppies being born.

Let us support a new animal welfare society which should in time be able to deal properly with this problem. Then perhaps all owners will put collars with name tags attached, on their dogs, so that they can be identified

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Libya restores telecommunications with Egypt

BEIRUT (R) — Libya, after declaring it would withdraw troops from the border with Egypt, said Wednesday it had restored telecommunications between the two countries. The official news agency JANA, monitored in Beirut, said: "The popular committee for communication has restored all telephone and telegraph lines with Egypt to allow the Libyan and Egyptian peoples free and easy communication." Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi announced March 28 he would withdraw all Libyan forces from the border and allow Egyptians freely in and out of Libya. He added he would maintain opposition to the government of President Hosni Mubarak but not militarily. Mubarak at the time denounced Qadhafi's move as a trick.

Kuwait Boeing flies home from Algiers

ALGIERS (AP) — The Kuwait Airways Boeing 747 held by hijackers for 16 days took off for home from Algiers airport Wednesday, one week after its last 31 hostages were released. Kuwait Ambassador Gases Boursali said a relief crew had been standing by for five days waiting for the plane to be thoroughly cleaned and declared airworthy by Algerian aviation authorities. Boursali said the plane was being taken directly to Kuwait to resume regular service with the airline, which has resumed its service to Far East destinations. The airline suspended its flights to the Far East after the Jumbo jet was hijacked on a flight from Bangkok, Thailand, to Kuwait. Boursali said a thorough check of the plane disclosed no serious mechanical damage. "But it was terribly dirty inside and most of the seats were damaged," he said. "Everything is OK now." Algerian authorities refused to allow Western reporters or photographers to view the inside of the plane.

Iraq to issue Fao stamp

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq will issue a postage stamp to commemorate the liberation of the Fao peninsula from Iranian occupation, the Iraqi News Agency reported Tuesday. The government postal agency invited artists to take part in a competition for the design of the stamp, the agency reported. Iraq early last week retook the southern Fao peninsula, which Iran had captured more than two years ago.

U.N. chief: Cyprus solution on its own

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Tuesday a solution of the Cyprus problem should not be too dependent on a resolution of differences between Greece and Turkey. Responding to a question at a press lunch, he said: "I am confident that a much better relationship between Turkey and Greece will help (with the Cyprus question)." But he added: "I don't think that we should make a solution... too much linked with a solution of the problems between Greece and Turkey." Cyprus was an independent country and a resolution of its difficulties should not depend on a solution of those between Turkey and Greece, "even if they are supposed to be the mother countries" of the island's two communities, the secretary general added.

Lebanese deputy dies

BEIRUT (R) — A Greek Orthodox member of the Lebanese parliament, Selim Maalouf, died Wednesday, leaving 76 surviving members of the 99-seat single-chamber legislature, official sources said. They said Maalouf, 75, who represented the eastern town of Zahlé, had been ill for some time. Maalouf was elected in 1972, the last time parliamentary elections were held in the country torn by civil war since 1975. The parliament is due to elect a new president in the summer when Amin Gemayel ends his six-year term.

King reaffirms Jordan's unshakeable national stands

(Continued from page 1)

He said the Iranian regime was attempting to exploit religion and faith to strike at religion and faith and strike at the people who live and still live in the sanctity of Islamic holy places at the heart of the Islamic World."

He told the Iftar gathering at the Armed Forces Officers Club in Zarqa that on the other side, "Jordan stands at the longest confrontation line with a formidable power that possesses the same excuses and intentions and hatred towards our Arab Nation, our faith and all that is sacred to every single one of us."

In reference to the five-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories, the King said that the people in the occupied territories lived through 20 years of occupation and injustice at a time when all people were concerned with human rights.

"Then came the explosion and this uprising to affirm in the occupied lands, that the Arab human has not weakened and will not weaken and that we have a great duty and responsibility towards our kinsmen in the occupied territories," the King said.

Following are major excerpts of the King's speech:

"Hussein I preferred to sacrifice everything in his commitment to the Prophet's pledge, never to give up the Palestine cause and the Palestinian land. King Abdullah sacrificed his life for the cause and we are all following the same course... perhaps circumstances impose it on us to pay more attention than before to deprive the enemy of all chances to hurt us and our steadfastness. Thank God, we have covered many stages in building our strength and we have exerted and will continue to exert more efforts."

"The obstacles that stand in our way are not in the area of people's preparedness, awareness, loyalty or dedication... they may be material obstacles. But despite that, our Arab army which carried out its duty in Jerusalem in 1948 consisted of 6,500 Arab men. The Arab army today numbers 120,000 men in addition to the People's Army, the reserves and modern weapons that are in safe hands as a shield for this nation and in confrontation of threats and a hope in the inevitability of the return of rights to the rightful owners."

"And if conditions in this world are in favour of realising the full rights of the people of Palestine through political action, our opinion in this is very clear, honest and known. It is that this must be achieved through the convening of an international conference to be attended by all parties to the conflict in addition to the five permanent members of the Security Council on the basis of United Nations Resolution 242 and 338 that guarantees the inadmissibility of the occupation of land by war in addition to other articles. And what needs to be stressed is that the Palestine problem must be solved in all its aspects. And if this is the goal, then the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) must essentially take part and contribute effectively in this conference as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

"We will not divert from this course and this is why we insist to attend an international conference as a sovereign and independent state if it was convened and we insist that all concerned Arab parties must attend at the forefront of whom is the Palestine Liberation Organisation. We will not be a replacement for the organisation nor a representative of the organisation or the Arab Palestinian people... the Palestinian cause cannot be resolved without full Palestinian participation and full Arab support, and we are at the forefront in this field, this is what I wanted to concentrate on and have talked about recently."

"Our means for achieving our goals and fulfilling our duties is through cooperation, solidarity and coherence in a way that relieves our conscience and makes us feel we have done what we can for a better future."

"I was going through my papers today and I found this paper that contains the historic decision to unite the two banks (of River Jordan) dated April 24, 1950. First of all, this document endorses a full unity based on the constitutional parliamentary system and equality in rights and duties among all citizens."

"Secondly, it stressed the guaranteeing of all Arab rights in Palestine and defending these rights by all legitimate means and a final settlement within the bounds of national aspirations, Arab cooperation and international justice."

"I want to say honestly, sincerely and unequivocally that this was the position in 1950 and this is the position now in terms of stressing the full Arab rights in Palestine and defending these rights by all legitimate means and the final settlement within the bounds of national aspirations, Arab cooperation and international justice."

The Iraqi-based Iranian opposition Mujahedeen movement sent a cable to King Fahd saying the break with Tehran was a "very necessary step towards the establishment of peace and tranquillity in the region."

Demjanjuk upbeat but on 'suicide watch'

TEL AVIV (AP) — John Demjanjuk's family met for two hours Tuesday with the retired Ohio autoworker sentenced to die for Nazi war crimes and said Demjanjuk's mood was upbeat and he was optimistic about his appeal.

Demjanjuk's daughter Lydia Maday, 38, said her father was cheerful Tuesday during the family's first meeting since he was sentenced to die.

An ash-faced Demjanjuk, 68, was returned to his solitary confinement cell in the maximum security Ayalon prison Monday after being sentenced to death for allegedly executing hundreds of thousands of people as the brutal Nazi guard "Ivan the terrible."

Demjanjuk, who insisted he was innocent throughout the 14-month trial, plans to appeal to the supreme court.

Israel prison service spokesman Johnny Tester said Demjanjuk was placed "under 24-hour guard, and we are asking his guards to be more careful, more alert. We want to be prepared in case of a suicide attempt."

Demjanjuk's son John Jr. said the precautions were "a bunch of baloney."

They're going to pop up with that kind of stupid propaganda to try to make it seem like he might kill himself out of remorse or

John Demjanjuk

fied and yet he turned the other cheek. My dad says he's another innocent victim and he can take it too."

John Jr. said the defense would not file an appeal for several weeks, until after the family returns home to map out a strategy.

Soviets 'will not use arms in Gulf'

KUWAIT (AP) — A Soviet military commander was quoted Wednesday as saying the Soviet Union would not act militarily in the Gulf because this could lead to a third world war.

The daily Al Seyassat quoted General Yuri Markivov as saying in an interview that the Soviet Union has no intention to use its weapons in the Gulf "because this would lead to the outbreak of a third world war."

"Accordingly, our primary objective is to work with the Gulf states to settle the Iran-Iraq conflict peacefully and to bolster relations between the Soviet Union and the Gulf Arab states," said Markivov, described as an expert on the Middle East.

He said that the Soviet Union "will take all political measures" to end the Iran-Iraq war during the forthcoming Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Moscow.

The Soviet Union has relations with the two belligerents as well as with Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Oman. It has been seeking diplomatic relations with the rest of the Gulf states, especially Saudi Arabia.

The general termed as "meaningless" the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war and warned that the presence of foreign fleets in the Gulf "implies a dangerous possibility of turning the war into a wider regional conflict."

Apparently referring only to warships, Markivov said the Soviet Union has only three warships in the Gulf for escorting Soviet commercial ships.

"The Arabian Gulf region is not distant from our borders, hence we will not be aloof from this arena," he said. "Therefore, we have called from the start for ending the foreign military presence and the withdrawal of the U.S., British and French forces."

The paper said Markivov had undertaken assignments in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley and the Mediterranean, and visited Syria twice.

Markivov told the paper that the Arabs were capable of defeating Israel if "they united their forces and discarded differences."

U.S. navy resumes escort operations

BAHRAIN (AP) — A convoy of U.S.-flagged Kuwaiti tankers, the first since the armed clashes between the United States and Iran 10 days earlier, headed up the Gulf Wednesday after bad weather forced an overnight postponement.

All four of those ships took part in the U.S. navy's April 18 strikes against Iranian oil platforms and ships in the Gulf, in retaliation for the sowing of mines by Iran, one of which damaged a U.S. missile frigate.

The Kuwaiti tankers were the 46,723-ton Gas Queen, a liquefied gas carrier and the oil products tankers Chesapeake City and Ocean City, both 79,999 dwt.

A U.S. central command spokesman confirmed the movement of the convoy, the 26th this year and the 48th since the escort operations began last July. U.S. officials do not acknowledge the convoys until they have passed certain danger points in the Gulf.

The convoy was already nearly two weeks behind schedule when it began Tuesday, only to turn back because a sandstorm over the central Gulf posed a hazard to helicopters and patrol craft assigned to scout for mines ahead of the ships.

The group was escorted by four U.S. warships, the destroyers O'Brien and Merrill, the guided missile destroyer Joseph Strauss and the guided missile cruiser Wainwright, as it headed into the Gulf.

Ships of other nations often "hitchhike" with the American units through the strait and southern Gulf waters where Iran's gunboats and armed speedboats regularly attack commercial shipping.

Iranians 'down to their bare bones of navy'

DUBAI (R) — Iran's navy, decimated by U.S. forces in a Gulf shoot-out 10 days ago, has pressed a landing ship and supply vessel into emergency patrol duty in the Strait of Hormuz, Western military sources said Wednesday.

The makeshift force, taking over the surveillance role of Iran's frigates disabled and sunk by the U.S. navy, has been sighted keeping watch on merchant shipping in the strait for the last two days but has not openly challenged vessels.

"The Iranian navy was decimated by the Americans and they really are down to the bare bones of their fleet now," said one military source.

In a series of clashes with U.S. forces April 18, Iran's British-built frigate the Sahan was sunk and a sister ship the Sabalan was disabled. A French-built Kaman fast attack craft, the Joshan, was probably being used in con-

The U.S. navy has been under increasing pressure to get the Kuwaiti tanker convoys moving again, despite concern about mines and the threat of Iranian missile attacks in the Hormuz, where five missiles were fired at U.S. ships during the April 18 skirmishes.

The tanker movements had fallen behind schedule since the April 14 mining of the U.S. frigate Samuel B. Roberts and the subsequent discovery of about a dozen more mines in central Gulf shipping lanes — the event that led to the U.S. retaliatory attacks.

U.S. officials say they had evidence showing the mines were newly laid by Iran. The "mine danger areas" were swept by U.S. and European navy craft.

However, one source, asking not to be identified, said there remained some worry about mines, and the convoy was aborted Tuesday because a sandstorm would have impeded helicopters and patrol craft accompanying the ships.

The Gas Queen and another tanker had been slated to enter the Gulf April 15. But that movement was cancelled after the Roberts was holed.

Subsequently, four more tankers arrived at the convoy staging anchorage off the port of Khor Fakkan, in the Gulf of Oman.

junction with increased aerial surveillance to co-ordinate possible attacks by Revolutionary Guards in speed boats.

Iran's navy and Revolutionary Guards — a separate force which works in close cooperation — have attacked 31 ships in the Gulf this year, often in retaliation for Iraqi strikes against Tehran's fleet of oil tankers.

The Saband and Sabalan had performed an important command function in the southern Gulf and some military sources had expected two ageing destroyers, bought from the U.S. navy in the early 1970s, to be used in their place. But neither have been spotted in action since the clash with American forces.

Iranian Revolutionary Guards attacked three vessels in the wake of that clash, but since then have hit only one ship.

Top American admiral says U.S. navy cannot counter every Iranian attack

WASHINGTON (AP) — American warships cannot be expected to counter every Iranian attack on merchant ships in the Gulf despite last week's demonstration of U.S. military prowess, the navy's top admiral said Tuesday.

"I can offer the observation of a lot of personal pride and satisfaction in the way they did their jobs," said Admiral Carlisle A.H. Trost, the chief of naval operations, referring to fighting April 18 that saw six Iranian vessels crippled or sunk and no U.S. ships hit.

"What they appreciate is the fact that in last week's engagements, for example, everything went right for our guys and wrong for the other guy."

"Had it been the other way around, you can imagine the Iranian navy and cry we'd hear in this town right now," he said.

On Monday, White House

spokesman Marlin Fitzwater

said in an interview with the AP.

The 58-year-old Trost, the navy's uniformed leader for almost two years, displayed animation and pique when discussing recent budget actions by Congress that he said would cut into readiness.

"Readiness is a hard thing to measure," he said. "You don't put a dollar figure on readiness generally because no one can appreciate that."

If American commanders are simply given the flexibility to intervene when in position to do so, then "that entails no changes in force level," he said.

Trost said Pentagon officials were surprised the Iranians came out to fight last week after the United States destroyed two offshore platforms in retaliation for a mining that damaged the frigate Samuel B. Roberts.

Blast rocks Saudia office

(Continued from page 1)

He lambasted what one called the Iranian plague. The daily Al Yaum accused Iran of being behind the hijacking of a Kuwaiti airliner earlier this month.

Diplomats said the Saudi decision to break relations was a way of closing Iranian missions suspected of smuggling in arms for pilgrim demonstrators last year.

"There are indications weapons were brought in and almost certainly the Iranian mission was used to distribute anti-Saudi propaganda," one diplomat said. "The Saudis want to avoid that happening again."

King Fahd has already ordered a major security review ahead of this year's pilgrimage.

Meanwhile, Iraq welcomed Saudi Arabia's breaking of ties with Iran, saying in a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry that it was a "logical and brave decision."

The Iranian regime has directed its aggressive policies in Mecca and Medina, while Saudi security police threw a cordon around Iran's embassy in Riyadh for 30 hours before tempers abated.

Diplomats said Saudi Arabia had wound down its embassy in Tehran some weeks ago, evacuating possibly all its Saudi staff as Iraqi missiles fell on the Iranian capital.

There was no sign that other Gulf states would follow Saudi Arabia's lead. The United Arab Emirates and Oman have urged dialogue with Tehran in order to end the war with Iraq.

Diplomats said it was unclear if other Gulf states were warned in advance, but it appears Riyadh felt more confident in breaking off relations following Iran's recent military setback against Iraq on the Fao peninsula.

Saudi newspapers Wednesday

Jordan Times

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Key OPEC players mull non-OPEC export cut offer

VIENNA (R) — Six key OPEC ministers started a meeting Wednesday to mull an historic offer by a group of non-OPEC oil producers to join in output curbs to raise world prices.

The seven non-OPEC sellers, including Mexico and Egypt, offered at talks in Vienna Tuesday to cut exports by five per cent if the group makes a reciprocal move.

"Cooperation (with OPEC) is only just beginning," Mexican Oil Minister Fernando Hirart told reporters.

He was speaking after a meeting late Tuesday night between an OPEC panel consisting of Algeria, Indonesia, Kuwait, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela with the non-OPEC seven — Angola, China, Colombia, Egypt, Malaysia, Mexico and Oman.

At that session, Mexico led the seven in offering to cut exports by five per cent if OPEC made a reciprocal pledge.

OPEC must now work out how to respond to the unprecedented offer of cooperation which — if implemented — would help mop up surplus crude oil arising from over-production by OPEC and increasing output from non-OPEC producers, analysts said.

Hisham Nazer, oil minister of Saudi Arabia, told reporters Wednesday: "The fact that (non-OPEC) are here is very encouraging."

He said he would like more non-OPEC countries to take part in such cooperation — those not present include the Soviet Union, the biggest producer, and two staunch Western free-market opponents of group-style tactics, the United States and Britain.

The Saudis have told us that if the cuts are sizeable enough, they are willing to cooperate in cutting," said the delegate, who declined to be identified.

The OPEC president, Nigerian Oil Minister Rilwanu Lukman, said on his way in to Wednesday's talks that he expected a common stand to be agreed by OPEC.

Asked if OPEC would agree any cuts Wednesday, he said: "Today? maybe tomorrow."

The OPEC panel of six nations which was meeting Wednesday cannot negotiate cuts with the non-OPEC sellers, but it can discuss their proposals and report to a full OPEC ministerial conference set for Thursday.

Analysts calculated that a five

per cent export cut by the seven non-OPEC states would amount to around 180,000 to 205,000 barrels per day.

Ardebili urged other non-OPEC producers like Norway, the Soviet Union and Brunei to join in cooperating with OPEC.

"We are urging... Norway, the USSR and Brunei to offer not only their moral support but also to come up with exact concrete reductions in their exports to the same extent other than non-OPEC producers are going to contribute," he said.

The Iranian official also held out the prospect of further talks later in the year to chart an output strategy for the second half of 1988 for both the group, and the other exporters.

The present talks are concentrating on the period to the end of June.

"We have to sit together later on in May to formulate a common strategy for the second half of the year based on the facts and figures for demand and supply," Ardebili said.

"Hopefully another meeting will take place of more non-OPEC members and later on in June there may be nine to 10 (non-OPEC producers) together with OPEC," he said.

At Thursday's full OPEC conference will be the first time since the break they sit at the same table.

Iranian Deputy Oil Minister Kazemour Ardebili, who said he favoured an OPEC supply cut, Wednesday blamed the United States for pressuring Riyadh into the diplomatic move and added that it was meant to have a negative impact on the Vienna talks.

Ardebili told Reuters: "At this stage when there is hope and good signs of cooperation between OPEC and non-OPEC it is intended to have a negative impact on increasing the price of oil. I hope it will not affect the cooperation emerging to restore prices."

He said OPEC should work to define production quotas and give Iraq a quota.

Baghdad rejected a quota at the last full OPEC meeting last December, insisting on output parity with its war foe Iran. Industry analysts view high Iraqi production as a big factor in the current oil market weakness.

"If we get our act together, that will be the meaningful gesture," Sheikh Ali said.

Asked if this meant giving Iraq a quota, he said: "Yes, and finding exactly what production is and finding exactly what is counted in production and what isn't. If we get that in, that would be more significant than a cut (in OPEC output)."

Ardebili said Iraq was willing to see a cut in its OPEC-assigned output quota of 2,369 million barrels per day (b/d) as part of an overall deal.

Asked by reporters if Iran was willing to see its quota cut, said "yes, yes."

He also said he was sure the 13 OPEC ministers meeting Thursday would support efforts to raise prices, but the actual amount of

NRA sees abundant gas finds

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Natural Resources Authority (NRA) is pursuing a gas exploration programme at Al Rishe, 150 kilometres east of Amman, and has reason to believe that more abundant gas finds will be discovered, NRA Director-General Kamal Jreisat was quoted as saying Wednesday.

Al Dustour Arabic newspaper quoted Jreisat as telling the French News Agency that work on the second phase of the Aqaba thermal power station has been delayed pending the results of the current exploration because it is hoped that more and more gas would be used by the Aqaba station for the generation of electric power.

Most of Jordan's fuel is now imported from Iraq and Saudi Arabia and NRA hopes that the new gas finds will help reduce the Kingdom's annual fuel bill which totalled \$500 million in 1985 but dropped to \$420 million in 1987 in view of the decline in oil prices.

At present, gas produced by all the Al Rishe fields near the Iraqi borders comes out at the rate of 2,000 barrels a day but studies indicate that the area would be developed to increase its gas production soon, Jreisat said.

He added he was optimistic about the future despite the fact that the gas deposits at Al Rishe are not sufficient for the Kingdom.

He said that at the present rate of production at the Al Rishe deposits will suffice Jordan for the next seven years, but the produced gas barely covers one tenth of the country's overall needs of gas to operate thermal power stations.

"We are entering a season when demand should pick up."

He declined to comment on an offer by seven non-OPEC nations to cut their exports by five per cent as part of a joint bid with OPEC states to boost sagging oil prices.

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Riyadh Bank reports increase in '87 profit

BAHRAIN (R) — Riyadh Bank, Saudi Arabia's second largest commercial bank, reported Tuesday an increase in 1987 net profit and announced a split in shares.

The bank said net profit during a shortened, 10-month reporting period ended Dec. 31, 1987, rose to 155.4 million riyals (\$41.4 million).

The Jeddah-based bank is switching its reporting period from the lunar Islamic year to the Gregorian calendar year used by the kingdom's nine joint-venture banks.

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Sports

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY APRIL 28-29, 1988 7

NBA, players reach accord

NEW YORK (R) — The National Basketball Association (NBA) and the Players Association reached an agreement for a six-year labour contract, league commissioner David Stern announced Tuesday.

The deal, which includes an agreement by the players to drop their lawsuit against the league, was hammered out in a seven-hour negotiating session Monday in New York and approved by the NBA board of governors Tuesday. Stern said.

The new contract, which extends through the 1993-94 season, continues the salary cap and the college draft, but both have been drastically modified.

Though the players were seeking to abolish the salary limits and the draft system, the executive board of the Players Association has approved the agreement, according to general counsel Larry Fleisher, who called it "a good deal for both sides."

"This was a compromise," said Stern. "We expect the salary caps to increase by 10 per cent each year and that by 1992 the average salary will be about \$900,000."

This year's selection of college players, which will be held on June 28, has been reduced from seven picks for each team to three. Beginning next year the draft will be only two rounds.

The league and the Players Association also agreed to increases in pension and insurance for the players.

Mitchell retains WBA title

MADRID (R) — Hard-hitting South African Brian Mitchell retained his World Boxing Association (WBA) junior-lightweight title with a unanimous points victory over Puerto Rico's Jose Rivera here Wednesday.

Mitchell was making his fifth defence of the crown, the second against Rivera with whom he drew in Puerto Rico a year ago.

As the result was announced, Mitchell beamed to the cheers of a few hundred spectators in the Scala Mella Cabaret, where the 12-round fight ended well after midnight.

Rivera, 21, piqued by the draw on his home ground, made a fast start, flooring the 26-year-old South African in the last second of the second round with a powerful right.

But Mitchell kept out of his reach, in the third, recovering well with nasty punches from both hands.



HARD-FOUGHT VICTORY: Al Faisali beat Al Jazira 1-0 Tuesday night in a hard-fought soccer match played within the Jordan Shield Championship at the Amman Stadium. The winning goal was scored by Zeid Salam in the 2nd half.

The photo above shows an attempt of Al Jazira goalkeeper Muhsin Al Risha to save a goal from one of the Al Faisali strikers. Al Ahli meets Al Duffetain Wednesday night (Photo by Abdallah Ayoub).

PSV leaps to reach Dutch Cup final

AMSTERDAM (R) — PSV Eindhoven came back from two goals in arrears to beat second division champions RKC 3-2 in the semifinals of the Dutch Cup Tuesday.

PSV, European Cup finalists against Benfica of Portugal next month and already assured of the first division title, found themselves two goals down within the first half hour.

Cees Schapendonk and ad Van de Weil put the second division side in the lead before Dutch international striker Hans Gilhaus pulled one back for PSV just before the interval.

Goals from Dene Soren Lerby and sweeper Ronald Koeman saved PSV blushes as the Dutch champions imposed their class in the second half.

PSV's opponents in the final on May 12 will be Roda JC who beat VVV Venlo 3-1 after extra time.

Roda, currently languishing at 14th in the Dutch first division, qualify for the European Cup-Winners' Cup next season as PSV have already booked their Champions' Cup place.

Luton relinquishes League Cup

In London, English League Cup winners Luton Town have been forced to hand back the magnificent 19th century silver trophy they won at Wembley just two days ago.

The cup snapped in two during the celebrations following Luton's pulsating 3-2 victory over Arsenal Sunday and has been sent to a silversmiths for repair.

"We are not blaming anyone.

It wasn't a case of the players

celebrating with a bit of rugby in the street," explained football

league spokesman Andy Williamson, alluding to Rugby Union's

Calcutta Cup, which was damaged in a kick-about after the match between Scotland and England in February.

"Apparently, during the celebrations the cup snapped apart at one of the thinner parts of the neck."

Menotti may join Brazilian national team

Meanwhile, in Buenos Aires, Cesar Luis Menotti, coach of Argentina's triumphant 1978 World Cup team, said Tuesday he would jump at the chance of becoming Brazilian national team manager.

Menotti, who would be the first foreigner to hold the post, which is currently vacant, told the local daily Clarin in an interview: "It's like winning an Oscar I would be coaching one of the five best football (nations) in the world."

But despite his apparent enthusiasm, Menotti is likely to turn down any job offer because of a condition which states he must first spend a year as coach of Rio de Janeiro club Fluminense.

Menotti, sacked by Atletico Madrid in March, has until May 2 to reply to Fluminense's offer.

Turning his attention to this June's European Championship in West Germany, Menotti said seven of the eight finalists had a good chance of winning the exception being Ireland.

Menotti, who also said Denmark and the Netherlands were breathing fresh air into soccer in Europe with their open, attacking style, added that Spain could do well if they decided to be the "bulldog" and not the bull."

Agassi overpowers Brown

ISLE OF PALMS, South Carolina (AP) — Top-seeded Andre Agassi downed Jimmy Brown, while Diego Perez stunned No. 3-seeded David Pate in first-round play Tuesday in the 78th annual U.S. Men's Clay Court Championships.

Agassi, who's ranked No. 18 in the world, downed Brown 6-1, 6-4, while Perez surprised Pate 6-3, 6-1 in the second day of action at the Wild Dunes Racquet

Club.

Pate, ranked 24th in the world, is the third seeded player to lose in the tournament, which is being played here for the first time after 19 years in Indianapolis.

In other action Tuesday No. 7 seed Jimmy Arias advanced to the second round of a tournament for the first time this year, defeating Dan Cassidy 6-2, 6-2, on an overcast day at the seaside resort.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Estess

STORIED CREATURES

By William Canine

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- 2 Camouflair fabric
- 3 Sure loser
- 5 Scat!
- 6 Abrupt
- 7 Torn off QED
- 8 Fresh fruit kept
- 9 Bakery item
- 10 Tresses
- 11 Favorite of a
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- 14 Traffic vehicle
- 15 Kind of rig
- 16 Not splay
- 17 Kind of rig
- 18 Gained
- 19 Gained
- 20 Gained
- 21 Gained
- 22 Gained
- 23 Gained
- 24 Acquiesce before
- 25 Gained
- 26 Gained
- 27 Alt. pref.
- 28 More rapid
- 29 Farrow of films
- 30 Ugandan tyrant

33 Manipulated

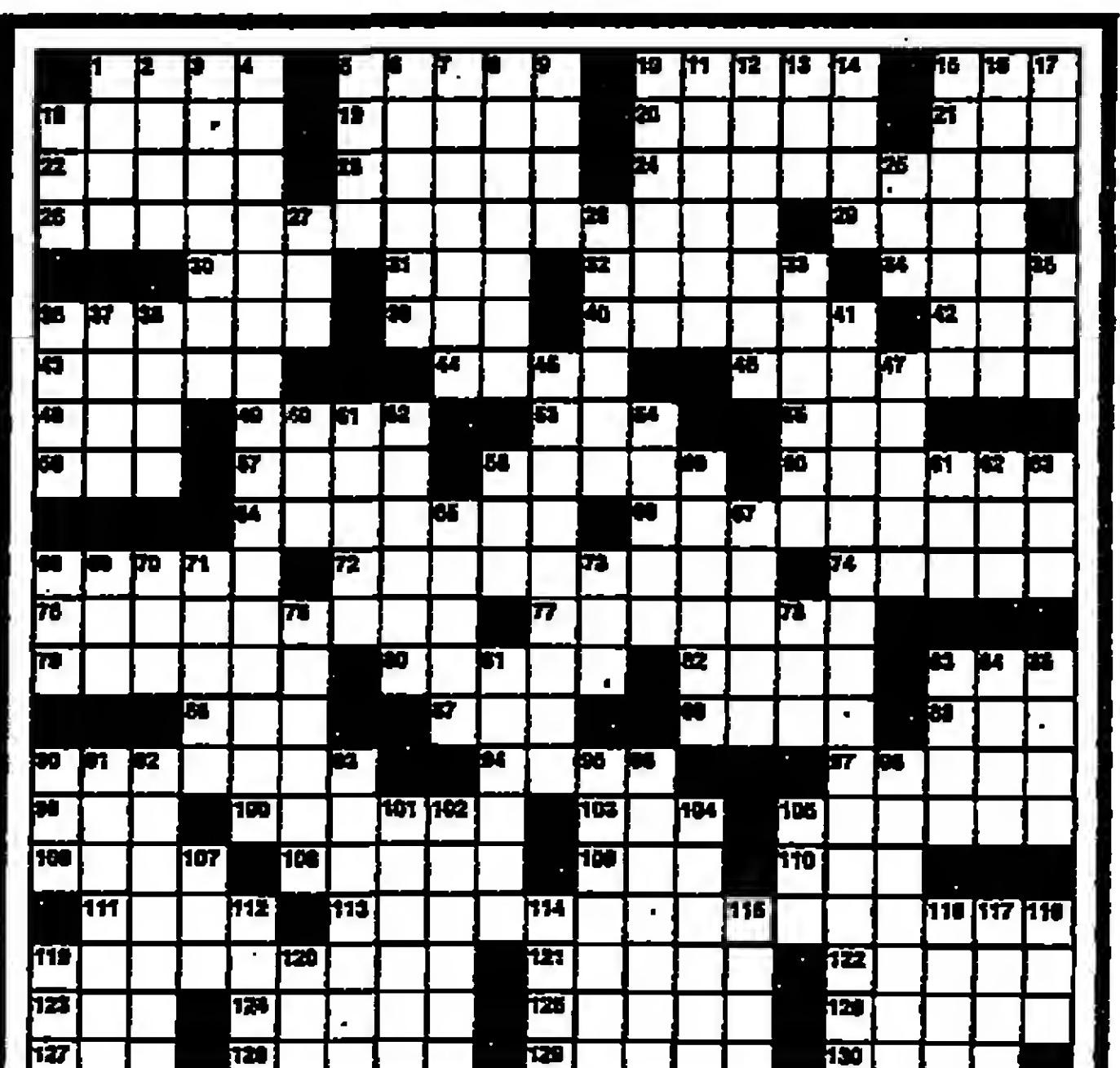
- 33 Money in a way
- 34 Piece
- 40 White herds
- 41 Winged
- 42 Elated
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- 44 Flower part
- 45 Not any
- 47 Rasin' to go

34 Enthusiastic

- 34 Durocher or
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- 40 Sloping
- 41 Passageway
- 42 Elated
- 43 Gained
- 44 Flower part
- 45 Not any
- 47 Rasin' to go

35 Descended

- 35 Office girls
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- 37 Glass
- 38 Before
- 39 Gained
- 40 Strip
- 41 Stravinsky or Skorsky
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Dukakis crushes Jackson; Bush clinches Republican nomination

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Michael Dukakis, looking more and more like the inevitable Democratic presidential nominee, crushed Jesse Jackson by better than two-to-one in Tuesday's Pennsylvania primary.

In the Republican race, Vice-President George Bush won about 80 per cent of the vote and mathematically clinched a Republican nomination that has clearly been in his pocket for some time.

Bush now has 1,164 nominating delegates, according to an estimate by the NBC Television Network. He needs 1,139 to be nominated at his party's August convention in New Orleans.

With 73 per cent of the Pennsylvania votes counted, Massachusetts Governor Dukakis led the Reverend Jackson, the first black to make a major bid for the presidency, by 66 to 30 per cent and won by large margins among all groups except blacks.

'Out-everything'

"We were out-organized, out-spent, and out-everythinged in Pennsylvania," Jackson National Campaign Manager Gerald Austin told reporters at a rally in Toledo, Ohio.

The contest split along racial lines with Jackson winning more than 95 per cent of the black vote but just 15 per cent of white votes, according to television network polls of voters after they cast their ballots.

That combination gave Jackson

primary victories against multi-candidate fields in several states with large black populations, but leaves him well short in two-person contests.

Dukakis also stretched his lead in the race for national nominating delegates by winning more than 150 of the 178 delegates at stake here.

Dukakis has now chalked up consecutive primary victories in Connecticut, Wisconsin, New York and Pennsylvania to halt a brief Jackson surge that began after the baptist minister's landslide win in the March 26 Michigan caucuses.

Prior to Tuesday's voting, NBC gave Dukakis a 1,098-857 lead over Jackson in the race for the 2,082 delegates needed to win the nomination at the party's July convention.

Other estimates showed a similar Dukakis lead and political experts say he will be almost impossible to stop.

But Dukakis, 54, refused to lay claim to the nomination.

He told a Boston news conference that his victory was a "very big boost," but responded with a curt "No, I don't" when asked if he now had the nomination wrapped up.

Austria protests U.S. over Waldheim suit

WASHINGTON (AP) — Austria has lodged a protest with the United States over its refusal to cooperate in a lawsuit brought by Austrian President Kurt Waldheim against a prominent American Jewish leader, officials said Tuesday.

The U.S. representative in Vienna, Michael Habib, was called to the Austrian Foreign Ministry last week and handed the protest note, an Austrian official in Washington said. Austria also sent a letter to the U.S. Justice Department, he said.

The Austrian government had asked the Justice Department for its help in questioning Edgar Bronfman, a wealthy businessman and the head of the World Jewish Congress. Waldheim is

suing Bronfman over his remark last May that the Austrian president was "part and parcel of the Nazi killing machine."

Explaining its refusal to comply with the Austrian request, the Justice Department ruled that because department officials had developed the U.S. case against Waldheim "it would be a conflict of interest and inappropriate" for them to assist in the libel suit, spokesman John Russel said.

Russel said the department had advised Austria to retain a U.S. lawyer to obtain the sworn depositions it wanted from Bronfman.

An Austrian embassy official said Austria views this explanation as "not legally based, but rather politically based."

Mozambique, S. Africa discuss possible summit

MAPUTO, Mozambique (AP) — President Joachim Chissano Tuesday blamed South Africa for Mozambique's devastating civil war but sent an emissary on a goodwill mission to the white-ruled nation, raising the possibility of a summit meeting.

Chissano spoke harshly of South Africa at the opening of a conference convened by his Marxist-oriented government and the United Nations to address Mozambique's emergency relief needs for the coming year.

Mozambique attributes most of

its problems to the insurgency waged since 1977 by the Mozambique National Resistance, which it says is backed by South Africa in violation of a 1984 non-aggression treaty.

But as the conference began, Chissano dispatched Cooperation Minister Jacinto Veloso with a conciliatory message for South African President P.W. Botha.

South Africa's Foreign Minister Veloso met with Botha, conveyed Chissano's interest in improving relations, and discussed a possible summit meeting between the two leaders.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

UNESCO praises Nelson Mandela

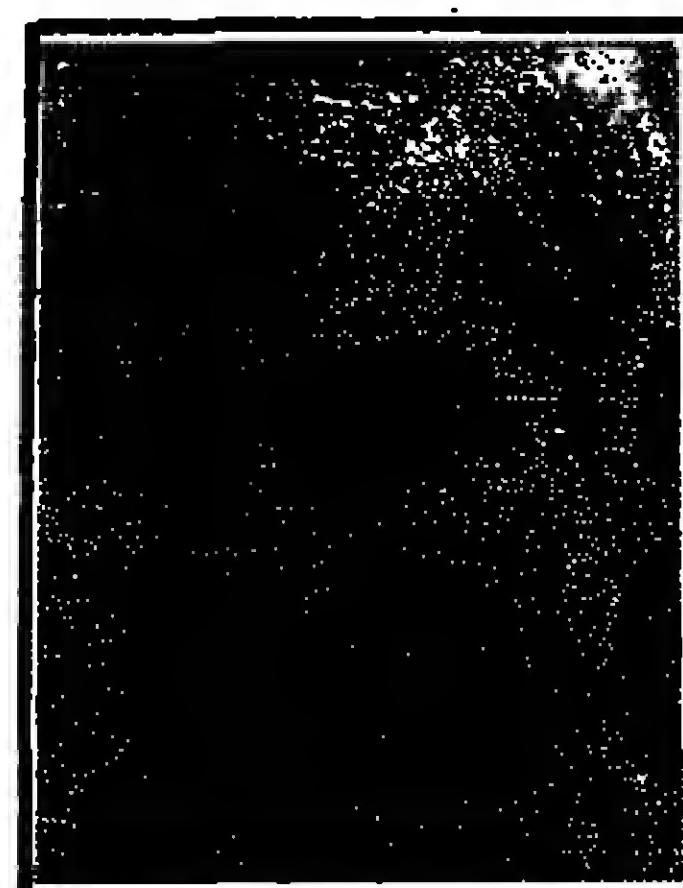
PARIS (R) — A message from UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor Tuesday commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights praised imprisoned South African leader Nelson Mandela. In his statement, the head of the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization denounced recent measures by the South African government to defend white minority rule by "francophone rules of censorship... introduced in addition to those already in existence." Mayor ended his message with a personal salutation to Mandela, the African National Congress (ANC) leader jailed for life by the South African authorities in 1964. "Throughout your life you have embodied this struggle for a free, non-racist South Africa," he said. UNESCO, he said, "stands firm in its enduring conviction that apartheid is diametrically opposed to the better world that the organization is pledged to creating and defending."

U.N. names monitors for Afghan accords

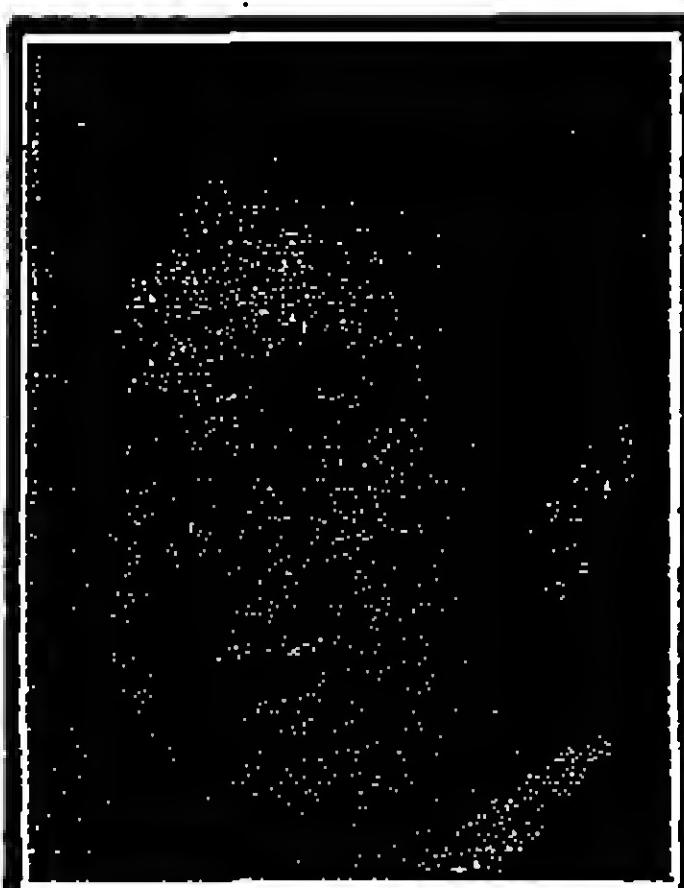
UNITED NATIONS (USIA) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar announced the appointment of Diego Cordovez as his representative on the settlement of the Afghanistan situation. Cordovez, who is also the under-secretary general for special political affairs, was the U.N. official who conducted the six-year negotiations that ended in the signing of a set of agreements providing for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and the return of the refugees. During a meeting with U.N. journalists, the secretary general said he had received provisional authorization from the Security Council to dispatch the U.N. mission. He also announced the appointment of Major-General Rauli Helminen of Finland as Cordovez's deputy for military affairs and Benon Vahe Sevan, a director in the U.N. secretariat, as the senior political deputy.

28 miners die in China explosion

PEKING (R) — Twenty-eight miners, 21 women and seven men, were killed in a gas explosion in a mine in northeast China in February despite a ban on women working underground, the China Daily reported Wednesday. It said the accident occurred in Heilongjiang province, in a collectively owned mine where 88 of



Michael Dukakis



George Bush

"Fritz Mondale won in New York and Pennsylvania in 1984 and then lost a whole string of primaries," Dukakis said in reference to former vice-president Walter Mondale who lost several state primaries before securing the party nomination.

Jackson, in Ohio, said he would remain in the contest through the final primary in California on June 7 with its prize of 314 delegates, the largest bloc at the convention.

"This race is going all the way to California and our campaign

continues to grow," Jackson, 46, said in Toledo.

Bush claimed victory even before the day's voting ended and said he could now prepare for a general election race against Dukakis that polls say should close.

At a campaign stop in Indiana, he said Pennsylvania was "a major milestone for me and shifting of gears in one sense, and that is I would have a little more time to spend getting ready one-on-one with whoever the Democratic nominee is."

Kohl names new defence minister

BONN (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl officially announced Tuesday the appointment of a little-known conservative West Berlin senator, Rupert Scholz, to the often precarious post of West German defence minister.

Scholz, 50, takes over May 18 from Manfred Woerner, who will succeed Britain's Lord Carrington as NATO secretary-general on July 1.

Presenting former law professor Scholz at a news conference, Kohl said: "He has dealt with German policy, foreign relations and security matters in his work in Berlin."

Western diplomats reacted favourably to Scholz as successor to Woerner — a hardliner frequently at odds with the detente policies of liberal Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

But they said taking the job was political suicide so close to the 1990 general election and amid government bickering over defence spending and frequent discord with Washington over disarmament.

"No politician with political ambitions for the future would want this job now with all the problems it entails," said one diplomat. "It is tantamount to political suicide."

Scholz, who appeared with Kohl, refused to comment on his own future defense policy.

The opposition Social Democrats (SPD) said Kohl's decision to pick an outsider for the "biggest and most difficult ministry in Bonn" would raise criticism in the parliamentary group of his Christian Democratic Union (CDU).

Scholz said his World War II childhood in Berlin and his father's death in the Nazi siege of Stalingrad had formed his views on the need to balance disarmament with a strong defence.

South Korean commentators hailed two victories after Tuesday's vote: dissident Kim Dae-Jung, whose Party for Peace and

Democracy (PPD) hoisted itself to second largest parliamentary group, and maverick conservative candidate Kim Jong-Pil.

Kim Jong-Pil, prime minister under the assassinated president Park Chung-Hee, saw the vote for his New Democratic Republic Party (NDRP) far exceed the personal support he amassed in last December's presidential election.

With an estimated 35 seats, the NDRP could ally with the DPP to create a slim conservative majority of around 10 seats in the 299-member assembly.

10 charged with murder in New Caledonia

NOUMEA (R) — Ten people were charged with murder, rebellion and kidnap in a Noumea court Wednesday as the search continued for 16 French gendarmes held hostage by separatists on a coral atoll in New Caledonia.

Four other people facing similar charges after the killing of four gendarmes on the island of Ouvéa, 320 kilometres north of Noumea, were in hospital, police said.

No plea was taken and the 10 were remanded in custody until their trial on a date yet to be fixed. There is no death penalty in France or its South Pacific territories.

Police did not say when or where the ten were arrested, nor how the four were injured.

Violence erupted in Ouvéa two days before Sunday's regional elections when a group of indigenous Kanak separatists attacked a gendarmerie outpost and hacked to death three policemen. Another gendarme died in hospital later.

The separatists kidnapped 27 gendarmes but later released 11. Three hundred highly trained paramilitary members of French security forces have been combing the rugged terrain, dense

vegetation and the limestone caves that riddle the coral atoll.

Local radio Wednesday said the separatist group holding the hostages had been trapped in an area of about 20 square km.

French Minister for Overseas Territories Bernard Pons, who flew to New Caledonia last weekend, expressed confidence that the hostages would be freed soon.

Leaders of the Melanesian Kanaks said the lives of the hostages were not in danger. "We are not killers, we will not kill them," said Edmond Nekirai, president of the political bureau of the Kanaks Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS).

The FLNKS boycotted the elections and instead has demanded that France allow self-determination for Kanaks, who make up 43 per cent of the 140,000 population.

French settlers and other loyalists, who outnumber the Kanaks, voted overwhelmingly in a referendum last September to remain under French rule.

A French High Commission statement Wednesday said the situation was calm in the island group after sporadic gun battles between whites and Kanaks Tuesday.

U.S., Soviets sign nuclear safety accord

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and the Soviet Union signed an agreement Tuesday to cooperate in regulating the safety of civilian nuclear reactors.

The accord was signed at the State Department on the second anniversary of the accident at the Soviets' Chernobyl plant. Thirty-one deaths have been attributed to the disaster near Kiev.

The United States had its own nuclear accident at Three Mile Island, near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, in 1979. There were no fatalities but questions were raised about the safety of nuclear reactors.

The agreement provides for the exchange of technical information about the design and construction of nuclear reactors and safety research. It will be in force for five years and can be extended for five-year periods.

Lando W. Zech Jr., chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, who outnumbered the Kanaks, voted overwhelmingly in a referendum last September to remain under French rule.

A joint committee will convene once a year to review proposals to enhance the safety of nuclear reactors.

COLUMN

Jagger gets satisfaction

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (R) — Rock and roll legend Mick Jagger did not steal another musician's song for his hit "Just Another Night," a jury ruled Tuesday. "I'm going to take my lawyer's out for a beer now," a beaming Jagger said after the four-man, two-woman jury decided the British singer was innocent of plagiarizing a song by Jamaican-born reggae song-writer Patrick Alley.

"This whole thing was pointless. If you are well known, people will take shots at you. I don't think our songs are similar at all," Jagger said. Alley, 38, lowered his head and frowned when the verdict was read. Jagger broke into a broad grin and shook his lawyer's hand.

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The opposition's violent protests often seemed born of frustration at ever getting anything done in a one-sided chamber," a senior diplomat said.

"Maybe they will be a bit more responsible now that the government can no longer lock itself in the chamber and pass the budget."

At the very least, though, Roh and his supporters will have to brace for some unpleasant initiatives from the newly-reinforced opposition ranks.

Kim Dae-Jung, for example, has long called for a full parliamentary inquiry into the 1980 army suppression of a civilian uprising in Kwangju, the capital of Cholla. He and the other Kims have also demanded light to be shed on allegations of official corruption during Chun's presidency.

In fact, the electorate's split along regional lines was, for many commentators, one of the most disturbing aspects of Tuesday's vote.

Kim Young-Sam's RDP won the bulk of its support in the Pusan area of the southeast, Kim Jong-Pil's NDRP was strongest in his native Chungchon area, and the ruling DPP's bastion in southeastern Kyongsang province delivered its usual big backing.

As I feared before the elections, we now have regional parties, Kim Jong-Pil told reporters. "I'm afraid we will have difficulty in working productively in the national assembly."

Proceedings in South Korea's parliament have not been noted for their urbanity. Twice in the past two years, after brawls and fistfights in the chamber, DPP

deputies outflanked the opposition by withdrawing to a side room, with scores of guards outside, and voting through key bills on the nod.

"The opposition's violent protests often seemed born of frustration at ever getting anything done in a one-sided chamber," a senior diplomat said.

"Maybe they will be a bit more responsible now that the government can no longer lock itself in the chamber and pass the budget."

Urging the opposition to work with him to maintain stability, he said: "Depending on how we do, this could have the result of advancing political maturity in this country."

Spread of AIDS through needles brings chilling message to Asia

By Kathleen Callo
Reuter

drug users, the number of carriers could be more like 15,000, WHO

AIDS cases in Asia and Oceania, accounting for less than two per cent of the 85,273 cases reported worldwide by the end of March, have, until now, been largely confined to prostitutes, homosexuals and drug users.

The region has far fewer reported cases of the fatal disease than other areas and has tended to view AIDS as a distant problem, but experts warn of a possible explosion soon in the number of victims.

Tests done in Bangkok last month on 1,650 addicts indicated the level of infection had soared from one per cent in the period of a year.

"This is quite a dramatic increase and suggests a major problem of AIDS in Thailand and possibly other parts of Asia," Jonathan Mann, head of the World Health Organisation (WHO), said this month.

"The vulnerability of the population may be less a matter of sexual contact than of intravenous drug use," he said.

International health experts say they are looking increasingly at the role of the needle in Asia — whether the drug user or the blood bank attendant's — in spreading the virus from high risk groups to the general population.

WHO says another main thrust is to stop the spread of the virus through untested blood donations.

While many countries have done selective testing of blood banks, countries like Indonesia, which has reported only three cases of AIDS, have ruled out comprehensive screening because of the expense.

</div